



Ladybug5

USB 3.0 Spherical Camera

Technical Reference

Version 1.2

Revised 1/30/2013



Point Grey Research® Inc.

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Contacting Point Grey Research

For any questions, concerns or comments please contact us via the following methods:

Email	General questions about Point Grey Research Technical support (existing customers only)	
Knowledge Base	Find answers to commonly asked questions in our Knowledge Base	
Downloads	Download the latest documents and software	
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About This Manual

This manual provides the user with a detailed specification of the Ladybug5 camera system. The user should be aware that the camera system is complex and dynamic – if any errors or omissions are found during experimentation, please contact us. (See [Contacting Point Grey Research on previous page.](#))

This document is subject to change without notice.



All model-specific information presented in this manual reflects functionality available in the model's firmware version.

For more information see [Camera Firmware](#).

Where to Find Information

Chapter	What You Will Find
Ladybug5 Specifications	General camera specifications and specific model specifications, and camera properties.
Ladybug5 Installation	Instructions for installing the Ladybug5, as well as introduction to Ladybug5 configuration.
Tools to Control the Ladybug5	Information on the tools available for controlling the Ladybug5.
Ladybug5 Physical Interface	Information on the mechanical properties of the Ladybug5.
General Ladybug5 Operation	Information on powering the Ladybug5, monitoring status, user configuration sets, memory controls, and firmware.
Input/Output Control	Information on input/output modes and controls.
Image Acquisition	Information on asynchronous triggering and supported trigger modes.
Imaging Parameters	Information on supported imaging parameters and their controls.
Post Processing Control	Information on image processing on the PC after capture.
Troubleshooting	Information on how to get support, diagnostics for the Ladybug5, and common sensor artifacts.
Appendix: Ladybug API Examples	Sample programs provided with the Ladybug SDK.
Appendix: Stream File Format	Detailed information on stream files.
Appendix: Calibration and Coordinate System	Information on translating 2D and 3D points.

Document Conventions

This manual uses the following to provide you with additional information:



A note that contains information that is distinct from the main body of text. For example, drawing attention to a difference between models; or a reminder of a limitation.



A note that contains a warning to proceed with caution and care, or to indicate that the information is meant for an advanced user. For example, indicating that an action may void the camera's warranty.

If further information can be found in our Knowledge Base, a list of articles is provided.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Title of the Article	Link to the article on the Point Grey website

If there are further resources available, a link is provided either to an external website, or to the SDK.

Related Resources

Title	Link
Title of the resource	Link to the resource

1 Ladybug5 Specifications

1.1 Image Processing Pipeline

1.1.1 Capture Workflow

The diagram below depicts the flow of data on the Ladybug5 during image capture. The table that follows describes the steps in more detail.

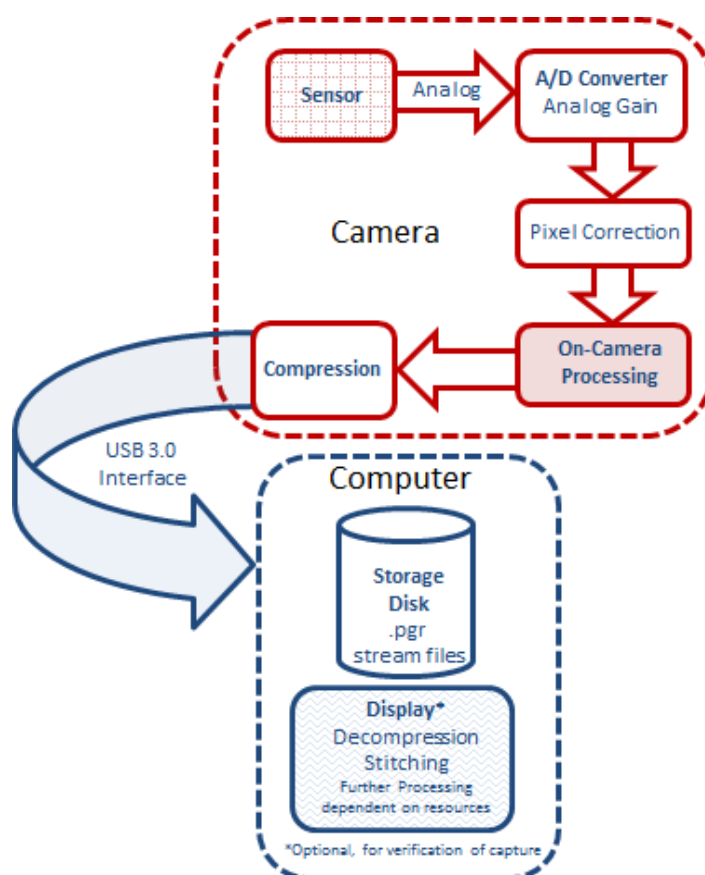


Figure 1.1: Ladybug5 capture workflow

Image Flow Step	Description
Sensor	Each of the six Sony® ICX655 CCD sensors produces voltage signals in each pixel from the optical input.
Analog to Digital (A/D) Converter	Each sensor's A/D Converter transforms pixel voltage into a 12-bit value, adjusting for gain in the process.

Image Flow Step	Description
Pixel Correction	The camera firmware corrects any blemish pixels identified during manufacturing quality assurance by applying the average value of neighboring pixels.
On Camera Processing	<p>The amount of on camera processing performed is dependent on which pixel format was selected.</p> <p>For 8-bit formats, gain, black level, white balance, and gamma are applied.</p> <p>For 12- and 16-bit formats, exposure time and gain are optimized for highest bit depth. Gamma, white balance and other correction is performed during post capture. This ensures maximum dynamic range and flexibility since post capture can be reapplied indefinitely.</p>
JPEG Compression	Image data accumulates in an on-camera frame buffer to perform JPEG compression. Following compression, image data is output in 8-, or 12-bit format via the USB 3.0 interface.
Storage Disk	The image data is stored on the PC as stream files (.pgr format).
Display	For the purpose of display, minor processing such as decompression and stitching is performed to allow for verification of the capture. Further processing may be performed depending on the available resources of the PC.

1.1.2 Post Processing Workflow

After capturing images, you can use the Ladybug API to perform the remaining tasks on the PC.

The diagram below depicts the flow of data on the Ladybug5 during post processing. The table that follows describes the steps in more detail.

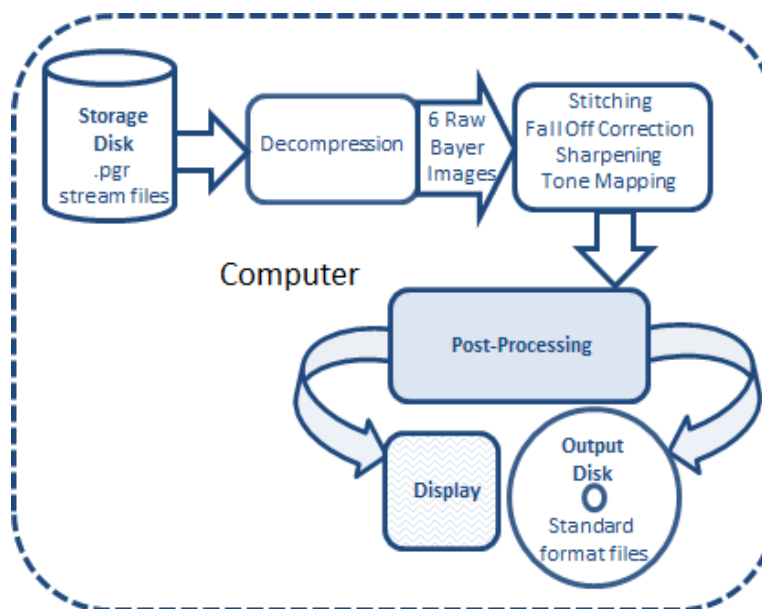


Figure 1.2: Ladybug5 post processing workflow

Image Flow Step	Description
Storage Disk	Image data from the capture workflow is stored on PC as stream files (.pgr).
Decompression	Images are decoded back into raw image format for further processing.
Stitching	By default, the stitching process assumes that all points in the field of view are 20 meters from the camera. This measure produces optimal results for most types of outdoor use.
Fall Off Correction	Falloff Correction adjusts the intensity of light in images to compensate for a vignetting effect.
Sharpening	Image textures are sharpened. This effect may be most noticeable along texture edges.
Tone Mapping	The dynamic range of images is converted from high (HDR) to low (LDR) to resemble more closely the dynamic range of the human eye
Post Processing	<p>The amount of post processing performed is dependent on which pixel format was selected.</p> <p>For 8-bit formats, only the above processing is performed (stitching, fall off correction, sharpening, and tone mapping).</p> <p>For 12- and 16- bit formats, in addition to the above, Bayer decoding, gain, black level, white balance, gamma, and EV compensation are available.</p>
Display	You can change the way images are rendered for display.
Output	Final image files can be output in standard formats.

Raw versus Processed Images

Color Processing	The raw Bayer-tiled images are interpolated to create a full RGB images. For more information, see Bayer Color Processing . Following color processing, images are loaded onto the graphics card of the PC for rectification, projection and blending.
Rectification	Rectification corrects the barrel distortion caused by the Ladybug lenses.
Projection	Image textures are mapped to a single 2- or 3-dimensional coordinate system, depending on the projection that is specified.
Blending	Pixel values in each image that overlap with the fields of adjacent images are adjusted to minimize the effect of pronounced borders. The result is a single, stitched image.
White Balance	Color intensities can be adjusted manually to achieve more correct balance. White Balance is ON by default. If not ON, no white balance correction occurs.
Gamma	Gamma can be manually adjusted. By default gamma adjustment is OFF, and no correction occurs.

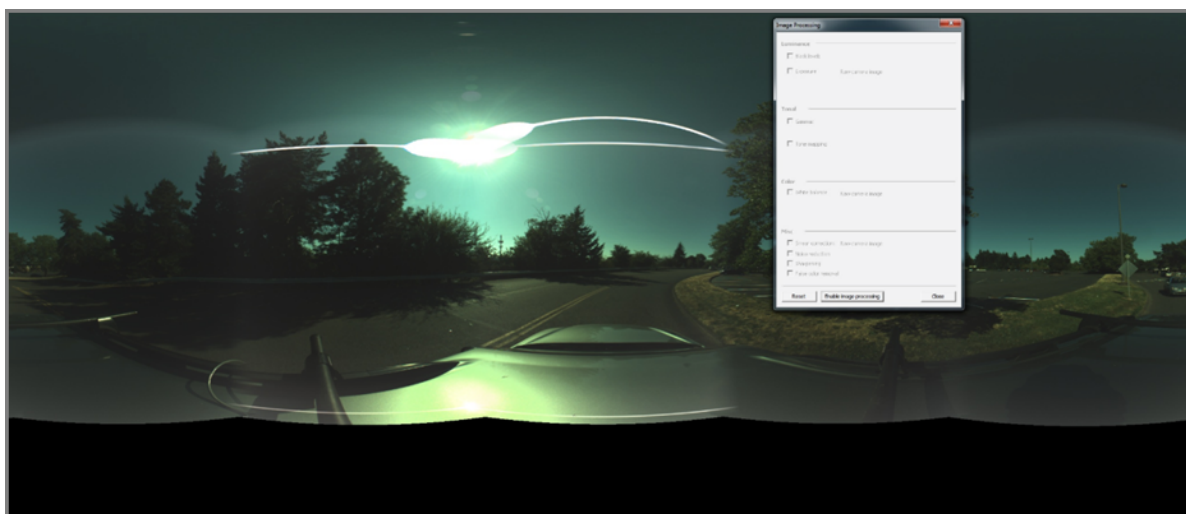


Figure 1.3: 12-bit raw image

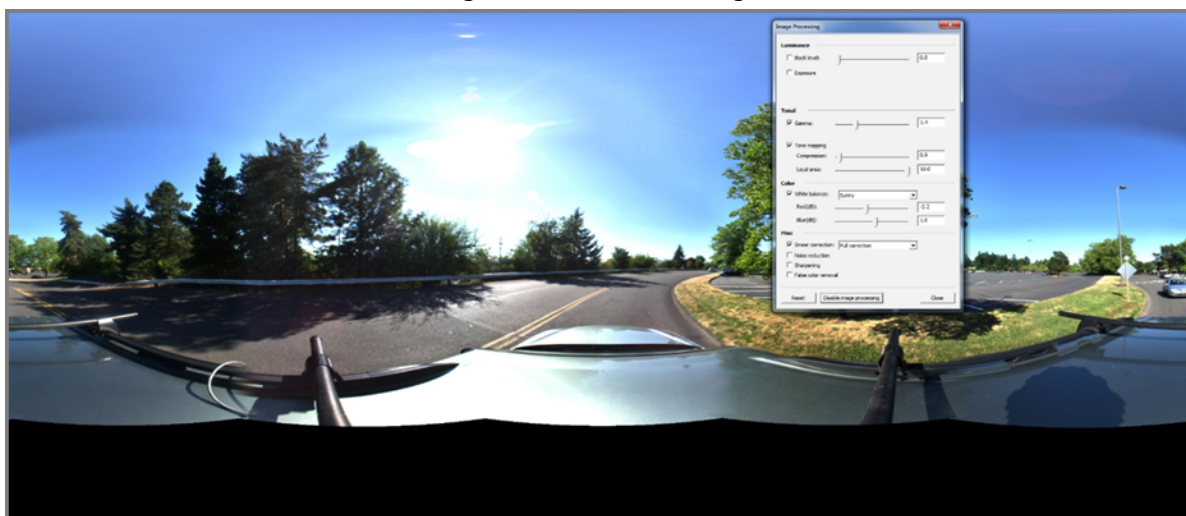


Figure 1.4: 12-bit image corrected during post processing

For details see [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

1.2 Ladybug5 Specifications

MODEL	VERSION	MP	IMAGING SENSOR
LD5-U3-51S5C-44R	Red	30 MP (5 MP x 6 sensors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sony ICX655 CCD x 6, 2/3", 3.45 μm ■ Global shutter ■ 2048 x 2448 at 10 FPS
LD5-U3-51S5C-44B	Black		

	All Ladybug5 Models
A/D Converter	12-bit
Video Data Output	8-, 12-, or 16-bit, Raw or JPEG compressed
Image Data Formats	Raw8, Raw12, Raw16 in uncompressed and JPEG
Partial Image Modes	Pixel binning and region of interest (ROI) modes
Image Processing	Shutter, gain, white balance, gamma and JPEG compression, are programmable via software
Shutter	Global shutter; Automatic/manual/one-push/extended shutter modes 0.02 ms to 2 seconds (extended shutter)
Gain	Automatic/manual/one-push modes for 8-bit formats; manual mode for 12-bit formats 0 - 18 dB
Gamma	0.50 to 4.00
White Balance	Manual
High Dynamic Range	Cycle 4 gain and exposure presets
Digital Interface	USB 3.0 with locking screws for secure connection
Transfer Rates	5 Gbit/s
GPIO	12-pin GPIO connector for external trigger input, strobe output, and camera power
External Trigger Modes	Standard, bulb, skip frames, overlapped, and multi shot trigger modes
Memory Channels	2 memory channels for custom camera settings
Case	Machined aluminum housing, anodized red or black; single unit, water resistant
Dimensions	197 mm diameter, 160 mm height (with lens hoods)
Mass	3.0 kg
Power Consumption	12-24 V, 13 W via GPIO
Machine Vision Standard	IIDC v1.32
Camera Control	via Ladybug SDK, CSRs, or third party software
Camera Updates	In-field firmware updates
Optics	6 high quality 4.4 mm focal length lenses
Field of View	90% of full sphere
Spherical Distance	Calibrated from 2 m to infinity
Focus Distance	~200 cm. Objects have an acceptable sharpness from ~60 cm to infinity

	All <i>Ladybug5</i> Models
Environmental Sensors	Temperature, Barometer, Humidity, Accelerometer, Compass, Gyroscope
Temperature	Operating: 0° to 45°C; Storage: -30° to 60°C
Humidity	Operating: 20 to 80% (no condensation) ; Storage: 20 to 95% (no condensation)
Compliance	CE, FCC, RoHS
Operating System	Windows 7 or Windows 8, 64-bit with 8 GB RAM
Warranty	2 Years

1.3 Handling Precautions and Camera Care



Do not open the camera housing. Doing so voids the Hardware Warranty described at the beginning of this manual.

Your Point Grey digital camera is a precisely manufactured and calibrated device and should be handled with care. Here are some tips on how to care for the device.

- Avoid electrostatic charging.
- When handling the camera unit, avoid touching the lenses. Fingerprints will affect the quality of the image produced by the device.
- To clean the lenses, use a standard camera lens cleaning kit or a clean dry cotton cloth. Do not apply excessive force.
- Avoid excessive shaking, dropping or any kind of mishandling of the device.



To replace the protective glass the camera must be returned to Point Grey for servicing. Contact [Support](#) for more details.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Solving problems with static electricity	Knowledge Base Article 42
Cleaning the imaging surface of your camera	Knowledge Base Article 66

1.4 Analog-to-Digital Converter

The camera sensor incorporates an A/D converter to digitize the images produced by the CCD.

The Ladybug5's ADC, which digitizes the images, is configured to a fixed bit output (12-bit). If the [pixel format](#) selected has fewer bits per pixel than the ADC output, the least significant bits are dropped. If the pixel format selected has greater bits per pixel than the ADC output, the least significant bits are padded with zeros.

The 12-bit conversion produces 4,096 possible digital image values between 0 and 65,520, left-aligned across a 2-byte data format. The four unused bits are padded with zeros.

The following table illustrates the most important aspects of the ADC.

Resolution	12-bit, 50 MHz
Black Level Clamp	0 LSB to 255.75 LSB, 0.25 LSB steps
Pixel Gain Amplifier	-3 dB to 6 dB, 3 dB steps
Variable Gain Amplifier	6 dB to 42 dB, 10-bit

2 Ladybug5 Installation

2.1 Before You Install

2.1.1 Will your system configuration support the camera?

Recommended System Configuration

Operating System	CPU	RAM	Video	Ports	Software
Windows 7 or Windows 8, 64-bit	3 GHz Dual/Quad Core	8 GB	NVIDIA 512 MB	USB 3.0	Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 SP1 and SP1 Update for Vista (to compile and run example code using Ladybug SDK)

2.1.2 Do you have all the parts you need?

To install your camera you will need the following components, included with the Ladybug5:

- USB 3.0 cable ([on page 29](#))
- 12-pin GPIO 6-meter power cable and wiring harness
- Tripod adapter and desktop mount (optional) ([page 26](#))
- Interface card ([on page 30](#))



Cables provided in the development kit are not high flex cables. Handle carefully during installation to avoid damaging the wires.

2.1.3 Do you have a downloads account?

The [Point Grey downloads](#) page has many resources to help you operate your camera effectively, including:

- Software, including Drivers (required for installation)
- Firmware updates and release notes
- Dimensional drawings and CAD models
- Documentation

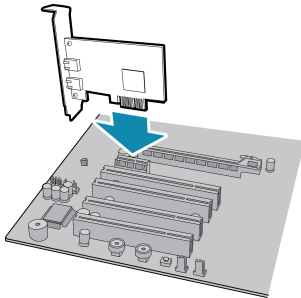
To access the downloads resources you must have a downloads account.

1. Go to the [Point Grey downloads](#) page.
2. Under **Register (New Users)**, complete the form, then click **Submit**.

After you submit your registration, you will receive an email with instructions on how to activate your account.

2.2 Installing Your Interface Card and Software

1. Install your Interface Card



Ensure the card is installed per the manufacturer's instructions.

Alternatively, use your PC's built-in host controller, if equipped.

Open the Windows Device Manager. Ensure the card is properly installed under **Universal Serial Bus Controllers**. An exclamation point (!) next to the card indicates the driver has not yet been installed.

2. Install the Ladybug® Software



For existing users who already have Ladybug software installed, we recommend ensuring you have the latest version for optimal performance of your camera. If you do not need to install Ladybug software, use the DriverControlGUI to install and enable drivers for your card. Ladybug5 requires Ladybug SDK v1.7+.

- a. Login to the [Point Grey downloads](#) page.
- b. From the Camera Family drop-down, select Ladybug5.
- c. Click on the Software link to expand the results.
- d. Under Ladybug SDK, click the 32- or 64-bit link to begin the download and installation.

After the download is complete, the Ladybug setup wizard begins. If the wizard does not start automatically, double-click the .exe file to open it. Follow the steps in each setup dialog.

3. Enable the Drivers for the card

During the installation, you are prompted to select your interface driver.

In the **Interface Driver Selection** dialog, select the **I will use USB cameras**.

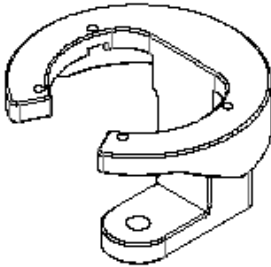
This selection ensures the Point Grey pgrxhci (UsbPro) and pgrusbcam drivers are installed. For optimal performance, after setup, we recommend configuring the pgrxhci (UsbPro) driver on the host controller to operate directly with the camera.

To uninstall or reconfigure the driver at any time after setup is complete, use the DriverControlGUI ([page 12](#)).

2.3 Installing Your Camera

1. Install a Mounting Bracket (optional)

- a. Install a Tripod Adapter.



The tripod adapter attaches to the bottom of the camera.

The camera is also compatible with the Ladybug3 tripod adapter (Part no. ACC-01-0013).

Note: the tripod adapter uses a 3/8" mounting hole which requires an adapter to fit a standard tripod.

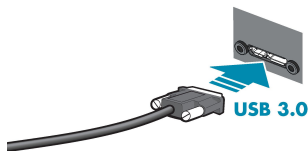
The tripod adapter is not used if using a desktop mount.

- b. Install a Desktop Mount.

Thread the cables through the desktop mount and out the cable exit slot before attaching the mount to the camera.

The desktop mount is not used if using a tripod adapter.

2. Connect the interface Cable to the Camera



Plug the USB 3.0 cable into the camera and secure with the cable jack screws.

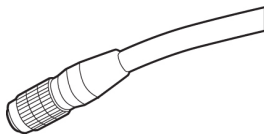
3. Connect the Camera to the interface Card

Plug the USB 3.0 cable into the host controller or hub.



Always connect the USB 3.0 cable to the camera before connecting to the host controller.

4. Plug in the GPIO connector



GPIO is used for power, trigger, and strobe.

The wiring harness must be compatible with a Hirose 12-pin female GPIO connector.

5. Confirm Successful Installation

From the Start menu, select All Programs > Point Grey Research > PGR Ladybug > LadybugCapPro.exe.

- a. The Welcome dialog opens, and it will display a choice of starting a camera, or loading a previously recorded stream file. Select Start Camera.
- b. The Select Camera dialog opens. This dialog allows you to view a list of all the currently connected Ladybug cameras, and select one to control.

- c. Ensure the camera is identified as USB 3.0. If the camera is identified as USB 2.0 it could indicate a bad cable connection or incorrect driver and the camera will not function properly.
- d. To begin grabbing images, select a camera and click OK.

2.4 Configuring Camera Setup

After successful installation of your camera and interface card, you can make changes to the setup. Use the tools described below to change the driver for your interface card.

For information on updating your camera's firmware post installation, see [Camera Firmware on page 33](#).

2.4.1 Configuring Camera Drivers

Point Grey has created its own Extensible Host Controller Interface (xHCI) driver that is compatible with several USB 3.0 host controller chipsets. The PGRxHCI driver offers the best compatibility between the camera and host controller; Point Grey recommends using this driver when using Point Grey USB 3.0 cameras.

Point Grey's PGRxHCI driver does not support USB devices from other manufacturers.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Recommended USB 3.0 System Components	Knowledge Base Article 368
How does my USB 3.0 camera appear in Device Manager?	Knowledge Base Article 370

To manage and update drivers use the DriverControlGUI utility provided in the SDK. To open the DriverControlGUI:

Start Menu-->All Programs-->Point Grey Research-->PGR Ladybug-->Utilities-->DriverControlGUI

Select the interface from the tabs in the top left. Then select your interface card to see the current setup.

For more information about using the DriverControlGUI, see the online help provided in the tool.

3 Tools to Control the Ladybug5

The Ladybug5's features can be accessed using various controls, including:

- Ladybug SDK including API examples and
- LadybugCapPro application

Examples of the controls are provided throughout this document. Additional information can be found in the appendices.

3.1 Using Ladybug SDK

The user can monitor or control features of the camera through Ladybug API examples provided in the Ladybug SDK, or through the LadybugCap Program.

3.1.1 Custom Applications Built with the Ladybug API

The Ladybug SDK includes a full Application Programming Interface that allows you to create custom applications to control Point Grey Spherical Products. Included with the SDK are a number of source code examples to help programmers get started.

Ladybug API examples are in C++ language and are also provided in a precompiled state. Two examples are provided in C# as well as C++. For more information, see [Ladybug API Examples](#).

3.2 Using the LadybugCapPro Application

The LadybugCapPro application provides an easy-to-use interface for controlling many functions of your Ladybug camera. LadybugCapPro consists of two primary interfaces: the [Main Window](#) and the [Camera Control Dialog](#).

Interface	Functions
Main Window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control image processing settings, including color processing algorithm, falloff correction, blending width, projection, stabilization and vertical tilt adjustment. View a live video stream from the camera and record stream files. Output stream files into other formats. Save individual panoramic images. Record positional data from a GPS device into a stream, and generate Google Maps or Google Earth files.
Camera Control Dialog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control settings such as brightness, gain, shutter, white balance and others. Configure video mode and pixel format. Adjust JPEG Compression. Operate the camera in High Dynamic Range mode. Configure the GPIO for trigger/strobe control. Access camera registers. Control each sensor independently for shutter, gain and auto exposure. Access advanced settings.

To start LadybugCapPro

To run LadybugCapPro from the **Start** menu, select **Program Files > Point Grey Research Inc. > PGR Ladybug > LadybugCapPro.exe**.

3.2.1 Welcome Dialog

When LadybugCapPro starts, the **Welcome** dialog opens. You have a choice of starting a camera, or loading a previously recorded stream file.

Start Camera

If you choose to start a camera, the **Select Camera** dialog opens. This dialog allows you to view a list of all the currently connected Ladybug cameras across all buses, and select one to control and view images from. The dialog also lists basic information for each camera, such as the serial number and the current firmware version.

To begin grabbing images, select a camera and click **OK**. The [LadybugCapPro Main Window](#) opens in live image-grabbing mode.

To access the [Camera Control Dialog](#) prior to grabbing images, select a camera and click **Configure Selected**. After configuring the camera, close the Camera Control dialog and click **OK** to begin grabbing images.

Load Stream File

If you choose to load a stream file, the Windows file explorer opens, allowing you to browse for a .pgr stream file to open. After selecting a stream file, the [LadybugCapPro Main Window](#) opens in recorded stream mode.

3.2.2 Working in the LadybugCapPro Main Window

The Main Window is where you do most of your work in LadybugCapPro. After starting a camera or loading a stream file in the [Welcome Dialog](#), the Main Window opens and displays either a live video stream from the current camera or a previously-recorded video stream.



To magnify the display of toolbar icons for improved accessibility, click Settings -> Options on the menu. In the LadybugCapPro Options dialog, at bottom, click Use large icons. Then click OK.

In Stream File mode, the title bar of the main window contains the file path name, serial number, pixel format, and frame rate for the loaded stream file.

Functions in LadybugCapPro can be accessed via menus or toolbars.

3.2.2.1 Main Toolbar



Use the Main Toolbar for connecting to a new camera (or stream) or changing LadybugCapPro application settings.

Icon	Description
	Starts a new camera or loads a .pgr stream file. For more information, see Welcome Dialog .
	Allows you to set the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for communicating with your GPS receiver. See Working with GPS Data JPEG Compression Quality--Controls the quality of images that are saved from a stream file in JPEG format. See Saving Images. We recommend the default setting of 85%. The increased file size and processing resources at higher settings may not be worth the minimal increase in quality. Options for Google Map. See Generating Google Maps and Google Earth data. Stabilization - Adjusts Parameters for working with image stabilization. See Stabilizing Image Display. Dynamic Stitch properties used for auto and one shot dynamic stitch. See Adjusting Sphere Size for Stitching. Use large icons--Check to magnify the display of toolbar icons.
	Copyright information about LadybugCapPro.

3.2.2.2 Live Camera Toolbar



The Live Camera Toolbar displays only if the camera is in live image-grabbing mode. Use this toolbar for the following functions:

- Start or stop recording a stream.
- Pause the grabbing of images from the camera.
- Access the [Camera Control Dialog](#).
- Change the [data format](#) of the images being outputted from the camera.
- Perform a one-shot [White Balance](#) auto-adjustment.
- Enable/Disable [Independent Auto Exposure](#).
- Select a [Shutter Range](#) from Motion, Indoor, or Low Noise.
- Select an [Auto Exposure ROI](#) from Full, Bottom, or Top.

For more information, see [Capturing Stream Files](#).

3.2.2.3 Stream Navigation Toolbar

The Stream Navigation toolbar displays only when a previously-recorded stream file is opened. Use this toolbar for navigating within a stream.










Toolbar Control	Description
	Opens a dialog for navigating to a specific frame.
	A series of buttons for navigating through the frames of the video stream. Mouse over each button for an explanation. Alternatively, use the 'Jump to frame' icon or the Seek slider at bottom.
	Click to play the stream file. Click again to pause.
	Specifies the first frame from which to begin outputting the stream. Use the buttons at right, or the Seek slider at bottom, to navigate to the desired frame. Then click. If not specified, the stream outputs from the beginning frame.
	Specifies the frame on which to stop the output. Use the buttons at right, or the Seek slider at bottom, to navigate to the desired frame. Then click. If not specified, the stream output ends at the final frame.

For more information, see [Viewing and Outputting Stream Files](#).

3.2.2.4 Stream Processing Toolbar

The Stream Processing toolbar display only when a previously-recorded stream file is opened. Use this toolbar for outputting the stream in a different format and resolution.



Toolbar Control	Description
	Sets the left keyframe from which to begin outputting the stream. Use the buttons, or the Seek slider at bottom, to navigate to the desired frame. Then click Mark left keyframe. If not specified, the stream outputs from the beginning frame.
	Sets the right keyframe on which to stop the output. Use the buttons, or the Seek slider at bottom, to navigate to the desired frame. Then click Mark right keyframe. If not specified, the stream output ends at the final frame.
Output Type	A drop-down list of formats for outputting the stream. For more information about these formats, see Projection Types .
Format	The video or image format of the output. Output Type (see above) determines which formats are supported. If AVI or H.264 is selected and total output is greater than 2 GB, separate files are created for each sequential 2 GB section of the output.
Output Size	A drop-down list of resolutions for outputting the stream. To specify a custom resolution, select Custom .
	Click to start conversion. The <i>Confirm Settings</i> dialog opens for specifying an output directory for the output file. After specifying all applicable settings, click Convert! to create the output file(s).
	Click to temporarily stop converting. Click again to resume. If you want to cancel conversion after clicking, click  . Any images created before clicking  are saved to the directory you specify, including those created during AVI conversion.
	Click to permanently stop converting. Any images created before clicking are saved to the directory you specify.


For more information, see [Viewing and Outputting Stream Files](#).

3.2.2.5 Image Processing Toolbar



The Image Processing Toolbar contains settings that are common to both the live camera and stream file modes. The controls on this toolbar are used to change the way images are processed and rendered. You can use this toolbar to change the color processing algorithm, panoramic viewing angle, panoramic mapping type, falloff correction, blurring width, stabilization, sphere size, and color correction. Additionally, you can view a histogram of RGB values represented in the current image.




Control	Description
Color Processing 	<p>Specifies the algorithm that LadybugCapPro uses to convert raw Bayer-tiled image data to 24-bit RGB images. Lower-quality algorithms can increase the LadybugCapPro display rate, and higher-quality algorithms can decrease the display rate.</p> <p>Two additional algorithms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High Quality Linear on GPU: Same output as High Quality Linear, but better performance on graphics cards with NVidia CUDA support. ■ Directional Filter: Highest quality output, but significantly better performance than Rigorous.
Falloff Correction 	<p>Enables or disables falloff correction, which adjusts the intensity of light in images to compensate for a vignetting effect. This control is off by default. To enable, check Enable Falloff Correction. Then, specify an attenuation value either by using the slider or entering a value in the textbox. The attenuation value regulates the degree of adjustment you want to apply. Then click OK.</p>
Blending Width 	<p>Allows you to adjust the pixel width along the sides of each of the six images within which blending takes place prior to stitching. Blending is the process of adjusting pixel values in each image that overlap with the fields of adjacent images to minimize the effect of pronounced borders. The default width of 100 pixels is suitable for the 20-meter sphere radius to which Ladybug cameras are pre-calibrated. To change the sphere radius calibration, see below.</p>
Image Type 	<p>Changes the way images are rendered. See Projection Types.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p> These controls affect video display only. To specify how images are rendered when outputting to video, specify an Output Type using the Stream Processing Toolbar.</p> </div>
Rotation Angle 	<p>Specifies the orientation of the camera unit's six cameras to the projection. The default orientation is camera 0 projects to the front of the sphere and camera 5 to the upward pole (or top) of the sphere.</p>
Mapping Type 	<p>Specifies the mapping projection that dictates how the six individual pictures from each camera are stitched into a panoramic display—either Radial or Cylindrical. See Projection Types.</p>
Image Stabilization 	<p>Adjusts image display to compensate for the effect of unwanted movement across frames when the camera records on an unstable surface. See Stabilizing Image Display.</p>
Sphere Size 	<p>Allows you to change the sphere radius, in meters, to which images are calibrated for stitching panoramas. See Adjusting Sphere Size for Stitching.</p>
Image Adjustment 	<p>Opens a dialog for performing color correction, sharpening, texture intensity adjustment and tone mapping. See Adjusting 8-bit Images and Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images.</p>
Anti-Aliasing	<p>Minimizes sampling errors, especially in low-resolution images. From the Settings menu, select Enable Anti-Aliasing.</p>

Control	Description
Histogram 	<p>Displays a histogram of the values represented in the pixels of the current image.</p> <p>Max Percent allows you adjust the graphical display to view a subset of percentage representation. For example, to view only the first 5% of the representation of values in the graph, enter '5' in the Max Percent field.</p> <p>All Camera specifies that the values are compiled from all six cameras on the Ladybug system. To see values from only one camera at a time, select a camera. (For camera orientation, see Rotation Angle above.)</p>

3.2.2.6 GPS Toolbar



The GPS Toolbar is used for starting or stopping a GPS device, as well as generating Google Map and Google Earth data when a stream file is loaded.

Icon	Description
	Instructs LadybugCapPro to begin receiving positional data from the GPS unit. When used in conjunction with Capturing Stream Files , GPS data is saved with the stream file. For more information, see Stream File Format . This control is not available in recorded stream mode. Click again to stop GPS recording.
	Creates a Google Map file from the GPS data that was previously recorded with the stream file, and allows you the option to load it. An internet connection is required to view the file. Google Maps are saved as .html files in the bin folder of the PGR Ladybug installation directory. This control is not available in live image-grabbing mode.
	Creates a Google Earth file from the GPS data recorded with the stream file, and allows you the option to load it. The Google Earth application and an internet connection are required to view the file. Google Earth files are stored as .kml files in the bin folder of the PGR Ladybug installation directory. This control is not available in image capture mode.

You can also export GPS NEMA data from a loaded stream file using the GPS menu.

For more information, see [Working with GPS Data](#).

3.2.2.7 LadybugCapPro Main Menu

In LadybugCapPro, most tasks represented in the top menu bar can also be performed using the LadybugCapPro toolbars. Using the menu bar, you can accomplish the following additional tasks:

Saving Images

In both Live Camera and Stream File mode, you can save the current image to panoramic JPEG or panoramic bitmap format, or as six individual color-processed images, rectified or non-rectified. For more information, see [Saving Images](#).

Downloading the Configuration File

You can download the file that calibrates the sphere radius for stitching panoramic images. To download this file to your 'My Documents' folder, select **File > Save Configuration File**. By default, images are stitched using a sphere radius of 20 meters. To change the sphere radius, see [Adjusting Sphere Size for Stitching](#). For more information about stitching calibration, see [Knowledge Base Article 250](#).

Downloading the Alpha Mask File

You can download the alpha mask files that dictate pixel opaqueness during the blending stage of the stitching process. To download, select **File > Save Alphamask File**. For more information about alpha mask files, see [Knowledge Base Article 250](#).

Getting Help

You can get the following information from the Help menu:

- The SDK Help file.
- LadybugCapPro copyright and version.
- Information about the video card on the system that is being used with LadybugCapPro to render images.

3.2.2.8 LadybugCapPro Status Bar

The status bar at the bottom of the window displays different information, depending on which mode the application is in.

Live Camera mode

- The first (left-most) status pane displays the status of the connection between LadybugCapPro and the camera unit. A red light here indicates a loss of image. Click on the red light to display event statistics with details.
- The second status pane contains GPS positional information.
- The third status pane shows the display rate, which is the rate at which images are being drawn to screen.
- The third status pane shows the actual rate at which the images are being grabbed from the camera.
- The final (right-most) status pane shows the rate by which image data is being transferred from the camera to the PC over the bus.

For more information, see [Capturing Stream Files](#).

Stream File mode

- The first (left-most) status pane contains information about the status of stream conversion.
- The second status pane contains GPS positional information.
- The third status pane shows the rate at which image conversion is processed.
- The fourth status pane shows the index number of the current image being displayed, out of the total number of images in the stream.
- The fifth status pane shows the current values of the left and right keyframes.
- The final (right-most) status pane shows the shutter, gain and gamma settings under which the stream file was recorded.

For more information, see [Viewing and Outputting Stream Files](#).

3.2.3 Using the Camera Control Dialog

The Camera Control dialog allows you to control most Ladybug camera functions.



To include this dialog within a custom software application, link to `pgrflycapturegui.lib` and create a new `CameraGUIContext` within your application. Refer to the LadybugCap demo source code for an example of how to do this.

The following settings can be viewed or set using this dialog:

- [Camera Settings](#) - For controlling settings such as Brightness, Exposure, Shutter, Gain and others.
- [Custom Video Modes](#) - For specifying video mode, pixel format and packet size.
- Camera Information - Provides information about the camera hardware and firmware.
- [Camera Registers](#) - Provides direct access to camera registers.
- [Trigger / Strobe](#) - For configuring the general purpose input/output (GPIO) capabilities of the camera.
- [Advanced Camera Settings](#) - For controlling memory channels, embedded image information and auto-exposure range.
- [High Dynamic Range](#) - Enables high dynamic range exposure.
- Data Flash - Provides access to the camera's flash memory.
- System Information - Provides information about the host system to which the camera is connected.
- Bus Topology - Displays the network topology.
- Help / Support - Information about downloading software and firmware updates, accessing the knowledge base, and opening a support ticket.
- [Ladybug Settings](#) - For controlling JPEG compression and independent sensor control of exposure settings and auto-exposure statistics.



Some camera controls and formats may be greyed out. If a camera control is greyed out, this means that the camera does not support the function.

3.2.3.1 Camera Settings

The Camera Settings dialog allows the user to control settings such as Brightness, Exposure, Shutter, Gain and others.

For Ladybug5 users, access to parameters may be limited by which pixel format is in use. 8-bit images have more control during the image capture phase while 12- and 16-bit images have more control during post processing.

To open the Camera Settings dialog:

From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.

3.2.3.2 Custom Video Modes

Shows information about the current video mode and pixel format of the camera, and allows you to configure packet size.



You must click **Apply** for these settings to take effect.

Control	Description
Mode/Pixel Format	The video mode and pixel format in which the camera is running. You can also configure this with the Live Camera Toolbar .
Format 7 Packet Size	Allows you to control the size of the packets sent by the camera. A higher packet size allows for a higher frame rate and larger image buffer size.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Why is the frame rate displayed in the demo program different from the required frame rate?	Knowledge Base Article 182
Ladybug JPEG image quality and buffer size settings	Knowledge Base Article 288

3.2.3.3 Camera Registers

This dialog provides direct access to camera registers, and is therefore recommended for advanced users only. The camera register space conforms to IIDC specifications (see <http://www.1394ta.org/>).

For more information about camera registers, refer to the *Point Grey Digital Camera Register Reference*.

3.2.3.4 Trigger/Strobe

The GPIO/Trigger dialog provides control over the general purpose input/output (GPIO) capabilities of the camera, including the ability to configure:

- Specific pins for input and output.
- External trigger mode.
- External trigger delay (or shutter delay when not in trigger mode).
- Strobe pulse polarity, duration and delay.



Special output modes such as strobe signal pattern and PWM must be configured using the camera register.

Control	Description
Enable/Disable trigger	When checked, allows the camera to respond to external triggers or internal software triggers.
Mode	Specifies the mode for how the camera responds to an external trigger. Not all modes are supported by all camera models.
Parameter	Certain trigger modes require a parameter to define the triggering cycle.
Trigger Source	Specifies which GPIO pin receives input from an external trigger device.

Control	Description
Trigger Polarity	Specifies a low or high signal polarity.
Trigger Delay	When checked, you can use the slider to specify the time delay, in seconds, from when an external trigger event occurs to the start of integration (when the shutter opens). When Trigger On/Off is unchecked, this value represents the shutter delay.
Fire Software Trigger	When clicked, causes a one-time internal (software-based) trigger to fire. Enable/Disable Trigger must be checked for the camera to respond.
Pin Direction Control	Specifies whether the pin is configured for input or output. The Source pin cannot be configured as an output when Trigger On/Off is checked.
Strobe Control Delay (GPIO 0...n)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enables a GPIO pin for strobe output. ■ Allows configuration of polarity and the period to delay assertion of the output strobe signal after start of exposure. Delay can be specified in ticks of your camera's clock and must be within the range of 0 to 4095. ■ Specifies the duration of the strobe output signal. If a value of 0 is entered, the duration is the same as the length of exposure. Duration can be specified in ticks of your camera's clock and must be within the range of 0 to 4095.

3.2.3.5 Advanced Camera Settings

The Advanced Features Dialog allows the control of advanced camera features including:

- [User Sets \(Memory Channels\)](#)
- [Embedded Image Information](#)
- **Auto Range Control**—Allows you to specify a range for exposure, shutter and gain that is narrower than the full range for the camera, when operating in auto-exposure mode. Use the [Camera Settings dialog](#) to set auto-exposure.

3.2.3.6 Ladybug Settings

The Ladybug Settings dialog allows you to adjust JPEG compression and control exposure for each sensor independently.

Compression Control

JPEG Quality - Controls the JPEG compression rate of the compressor unit. Increasing the compression rate increases JPEG image quality and, as a result, the amount of image data that is produced and collects in the image buffer.

Select **Auto** to set the compression rate to the maximum allowed by the image buffer. Auto JPEG Quality means the compression rate continually adjusts so that it never exceeds the amount of data allowed by the image buffer. Manual JPEG Quality provides consistent compression however, the size of compressed image data may exceed the image buffer size, resulting in buffer size errors.

A **JPEG Quality** value between 80% and 95% is recommended, depending on your application's requirements. The visual improvement at higher than 95% is negligible and usually not worth the increased amount of data that is generated.


See [JPEG Compression and JPEG Buffer Usage](#).

Auto buffer usage - When **JPEG Quality - Auto** is selected, you can use this slider to specify the percentage of the image buffer that is used for JPEG-compressed image data. Specifying a value less than the maximum allows for room in the image buffer to accommodate extra image data, depending on scene variations from frame to frame. Increasing this value may result in an increase in the **JPEG Quality** setting. When **JPEG Quality - Auto** is not selected, the percentage of the image buffer that is used cannot be controlled.

A **Buffer Usage** setting between 80% and 95% is recommended.

Independent Sensor Control

This interface provides customized control of exposure for each of the six sensors independently for greater dynamic range. Independent Sensor Control is activated by any one of the following ways:

- Selecting the Shutter or Gain **On/Off** control (the On/Off control for each sensor controls all sensors).
- Deselecting the Shutter or Gain **On/Off** control on the [Camera Settings](#) pane.
- Clicking the  icon on the [Live Camera Toolbar](#).

When shutter or gain is selected in the Independent Sensor Control interface, the following options are available:

- When either shutter or gain is selected, auto exposure can be controlled manually or automatically for each sensor; OR
- When gain is selected, gain can be controlled manually or automatically for each sensor. When shutter is selected, shutter can be controlled manually or automatically for each sensor.

For best results, apply texture intensity adjustment and tone mapping during image processing. For more information, see [Adjusting Images](#).

Sensors Used for Auto Exposure Statistics

When operating in auto exposure mode, you can control which camera sensors are used for calculating the settings of the auto exposure algorithm. For example, if you want all the sensors on the side of the camera to be used in this calculation, but not the top sensor, check boxes 0 through 4, and leave box 5 blank. Leaving all sensors unchecked is equivalent to checking all.

To set exposure in auto mode, use the [Camera Settings](#) dialog.



Camera 0 is etched onto the camera housing. Camera 5 is the top sensor.

4 Ladybug5 Physical Interface

4.1 Ladybug5 Dimensions

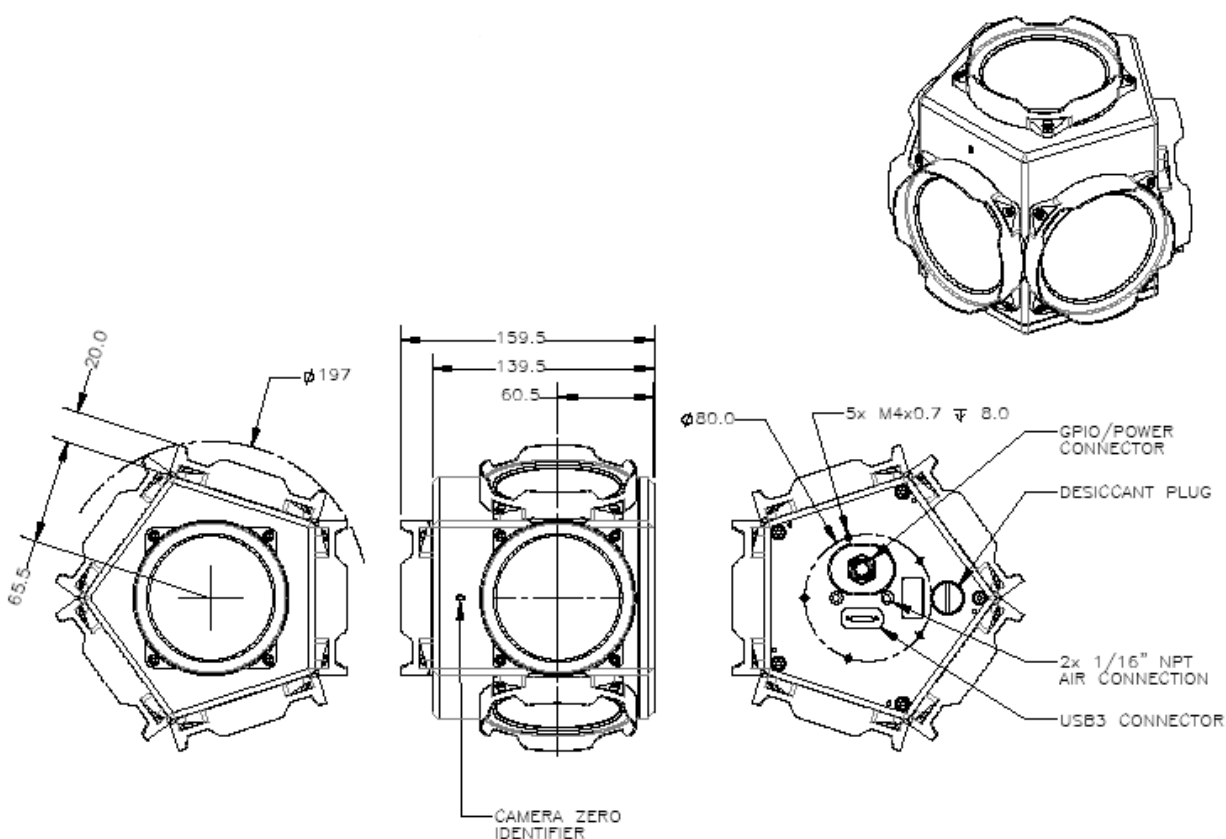


Figure 4.1: Ladybug5 Dimensional Diagram



To obtain 3D models, contact support@ptgrey.com.

4.2 Mounting

4.2.1 Using the Case

The case is equipped with five M4 X 0.7 mounting holes on the bottom of the case that can be used to attach the camera directly to the desktop mount, tripod adapter, or a custom mount.

4.2.2 Using the Desktop Mount

A desktop mount is provided with the camera.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Using the Ladybug in a mobile setting	Knowledge Base Article 302

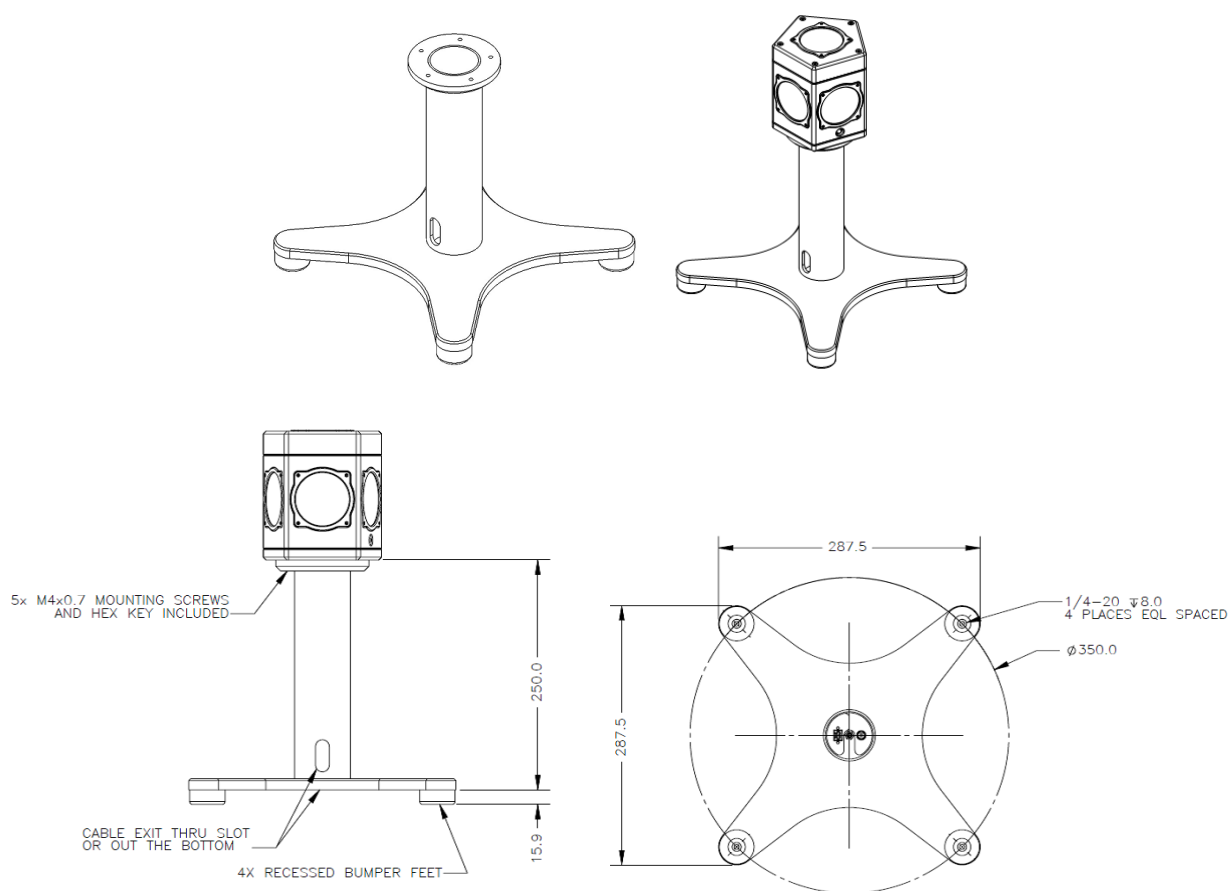


Figure 4.2: Desktop Mount (in mm)

4.2.3 Using the Tripod Adapter

A tripod adapter is provided with the camera. The tripod adapter has a 3/8" mounting hole which requires an adapter to fit a standard tripod.

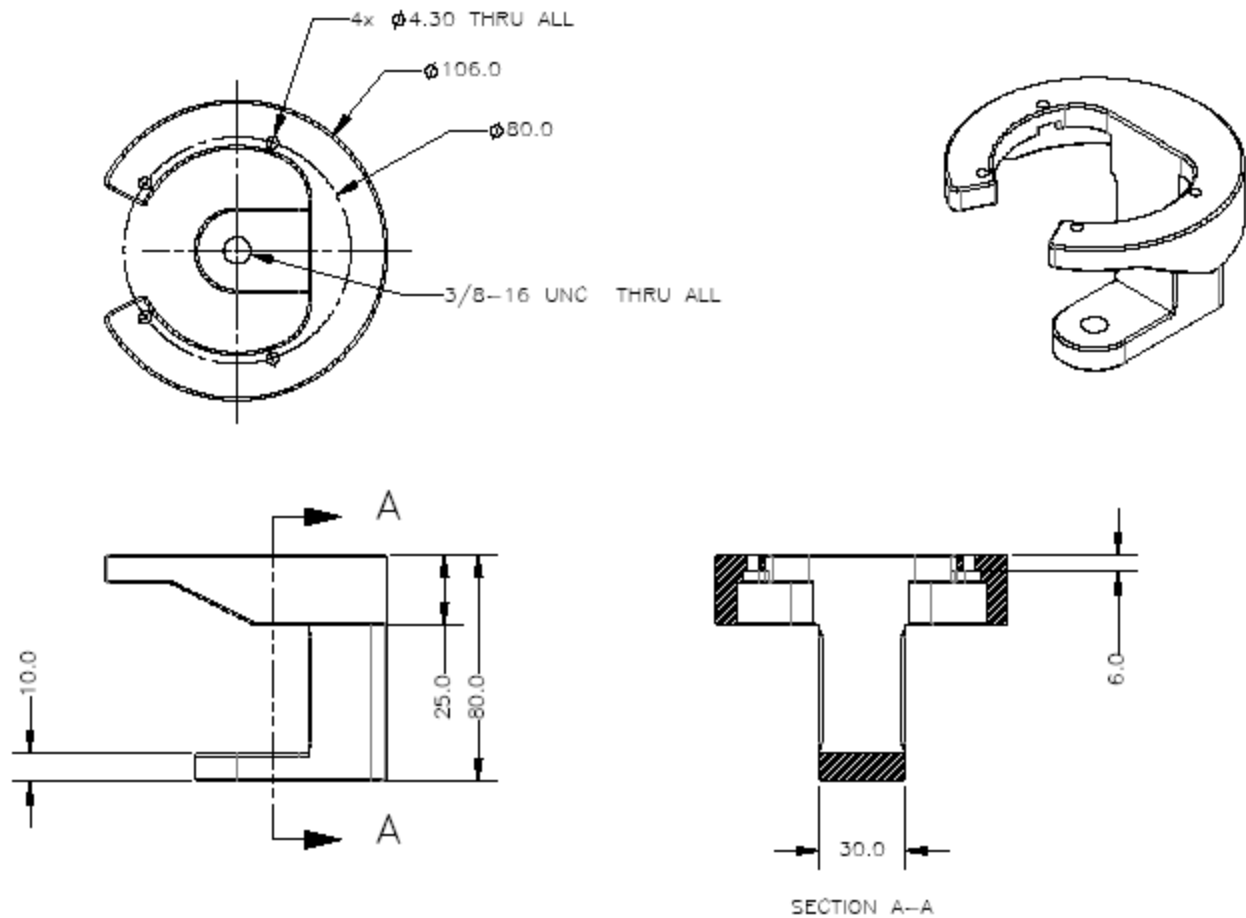


Figure 4.3: Tripod Adapter (in mm)

4.3 Water and Dust Protection

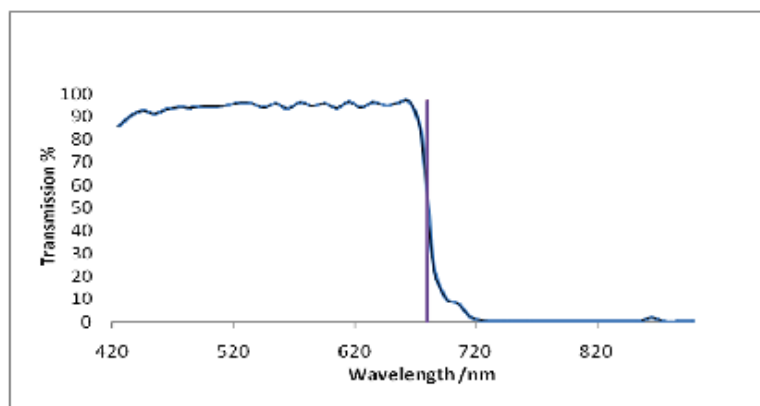
To protect against dust and water, the Ladybug5 camera housing includes a sealed layer of glass, with anti-reflective coating on both sides, over each of the six lenses.

Because the camera bottom contains outside interfaces, the camera should be operated in rainy weather only when connected to the desktop mount or the tripod adapter. The Ladybug5 should not be submerged under water in any circumstances.

The Ladybug5 contains space to house a desiccant plug to reduce the risk of humidity damaging the camera. See [Ladybug5 Dimensions](#) for the location on the bottom of the camera. The desiccant plug should be replaced periodically.

4.4 Infrared Cut-Off Filters

Point Grey color camera models are equipped with an additional infrared (IR) cut-off filter. This filter can reduce sensitivity in the near infrared spectrum and help prevent smearing. The properties of this filter are illustrated in the results below.

**Figure 4.4: IR filter transmittance graph**

The following are the properties of the IR filter/protective glass:

Type	Reflective
Material	Schott D 263 T
Physical Filter Size	15.5 mm x 18 mm
Glass Thickness	1.0 mm \pm 0.07 mm
Dimensional Tolerance	\pm 0.08 mm

For more information, see [Water and Dust Protection](#).

4.5 Camera Interface and Connectors

4.5.1 USB 3.0 Connector

The camera is equipped with a USB 3.0 Micro-B connector that is used for data transmission, camera control and power. For more detailed information, consult the USB 3.0 specification available from <http://www.usb.org/developers/docs/>.



Figure 4.5: USB 3.0 Micro B Connector

Table 4.1: USB 3.0 Micro-B Connector Pin Assignments

Pin	Signal Name	Description
1	VBUS	Power
2	D-	USB 2.0 differential pair
3	D+	
4	ID	OTG identification
5	GND	Ground for power return
6	MicB_SSTX-	SuperSpeed transmitter differential pair
7	MicB_SSTX+	
8	GND_DRAIN	Ground for SuperSpeed signal return
9	MicB_SSRX-	SuperSpeed receiver differential pair
10	MicB_SSRX+	

The USB 3.0 Micro-B receptacle accepts a USB 2.0 Micro-B plug and, therefore, the camera is backward compatible with the USB 2.0 interface.



When the camera is connected to a USB 2.0 interface, it runs at USB 2.0 speed, and maximum frame rates are adjusted accordingly based on current imaging parameters.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
USB 3.0 Frequently Asked Questions	Knowledge Base Article 357

4.5.2 Interface Cables

The USB 3.0 standard does not specify a maximum cable length.

The camera comes with a 5-meter USB 3.0 cable from Point Grey.

4.5.3 Interface Card

The camera must connect to an interface card. This is sometimes called a host adapter, a bus controller, or a network interface card (NIC).

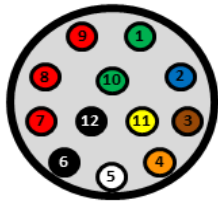
In order to achieve the maximum benefits of USB 3.0, the camera must connect to a USB 3.0 PCIe 2.0 card.

The camera comes with a USB 3.0 PCIe 2.0 card from Point Grey.

4.5.4 General Purpose Input/Output (GPIO)

The camera has an 12-pin GPIO connector on the bottom of the case; refer to the diagram below for wire color-coding. The GPIO is a Hirose waterproof 12-pin female connector (Mfg P/N:LF10WBP-12SD).

The camera comes with a 6-meter power cable and wiring harness with a Hirose 12-pin male connector (Mfg P/N: LF10WBP-12P).

Diagram	Pin	Function	Description
	1	OPTO_GND	Ground for opto-isolated IO pins
	2	IO	Opto-isolated input (default Trigger in)
	3	O1	Opto-isolated output
	4	IO2	Input/Output
	5	+3.3 V	Power external circuitry up to 150 mA
	6	GND	Ground for bi-directional IO, V_{EXT} , +3.3 V pins
	7	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	8	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	9	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	10	OPTO_GND	Ground for opto-isolated IO pins
	11	IO3	Input/Output
	12	GND	Ground for bi-directional IO, V_{EXT} , +3.3 V pins

For more information on camera power, see [Powering the Camera](#).

For more information on configuring input/output with GPIO, see [Input/Output Control](#).

5 General Ladybug5 Operation

5.1 Powering the Camera

The power consumption specification is: 12-24 V, 13 W via GPIO.

Power must be provided through the GPIO interface. For more information, see [Input/Output Control](#). The required input voltage is 12 - 24 V DC.

The camera does not transmit images for the first 100 ms after power-up. The auto-exposure and auto-white balance algorithms do not run while the camera is powered down. It may therefore take several (n) images to get a satisfactory image, where n is undefined.

When the camera is power cycled (power disengaged then re-engaged), the camera reverts to its default factory settings, or if applicable, the last saved memory channel. For more information, see [User Sets \(Memory Channels\)](#).

5.2 User Sets (Memory Channels)

The camera can save and restore settings and imaging parameters via on-board user configuration sets, also known as memory channels. This is useful for saving default power-up settings, such as gain, shutter, video format and frame rate, and others that are different from the factory defaults.

User Set 0 (or Memory channel 0) stores the factory default settings that can always be restored. Two additional user sets are provided for custom default settings. The camera initializes itself at power-up, or when explicitly reinitialized, using the contents of the last saved user set. Attempting to save user settings to the (read-only) factory default user set causes the camera to switch back to using the factory defaults during initialization.

The following camera settings are saved in user sets.

- Acquisition Frame Rate and Current Frame Rate
- Image Data Format, Position, and Size
- Current Video Format
- Camera power
- Frame information
- Trigger Mode and Trigger Delay
- Imaging Parameters such as: Brightness, Auto Exposure, Shutter, Gain, White Balance, and Gamma
- Input/output controls such as: GPIO pin modes, GPIO strobe modes
- Color Coding ID/Pixel Coding

To access user sets:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Advanced Camera Settings tab.



Saving to or restoring from a memory channel should not be done while the camera is streaming.

5.3 Environmental Sensors

The camera provides sensors to report on current internal conditions of the camera. These environmental sensors are:

- Temperature, in degrees Celsius $\pm 2^{\circ}$ C
- Humidity, in percent of relative humidity $\pm 3\%$ RH
- Air Pressure, in kilopascals ± 6 kPa
- Accelerometer, in g-force ± 50 mg
- Gyroscope, not currently supported
- Compass, in Tesla and degrees, ± 3 uT or ± 10 degrees when the camera is stationary



The environmental sensors provide general information only. If precise measurements are required for your application, external devices should be used.

Using LadybugCapPro:

From the Settings menu, select Environmental Sensors.

Using Ladybug API:

Use the [ladybugEnvironmentalSensors](#) sample program.

5.4 Stream Files

Ladybug images are written to a set of Ladybug stream files. The size of each stream file is limited to 2 Gigabytes. The stream files are named as `[Stream Base Name]-[Stream Serial Number].pgr`. The `[Stream Base Name]` is defined by the user or the application. The `[Stream Serial Number]` is generated internally by the Ladybug library.

For example, if `[Stream Base Name]` is given as 'myStream', Ladybug stream writing API functions will name the stream files as follows:

- myStream-000000.pgr
- myStream-000001.pgr
- myStream-000002.pgr
- Etc. ...

The `[Stream Serial Number]` always begins with 000000. All stream files that have the same `[Stream Base Name]` are considered as subsets of the same Ladybug stream.

When opening a Ladybug stream with a `[Stream Base Name]`, the Ladybug API opens all the stream files that have the same `[Stream Base Name]` beginning with 000000.

The total number of images of a Ladybug stream is the sum of all the number of images in each stream file that has the same `[Stream Base Name]`.

The data in a stream file is written in the following sequence:

Name	Description
Signature	Ladybug Stream file signature
Stream Header Structure	Information about the stream file
Calibration Data	Camera calibration file
Image 0	First Ladybug image
Image 1	Second Ladybug image
...	...
Image N-1	Last Ladybug image
GPS Summary Data	GPS summary data for the images in this stream file

For more information see [Stream File Format](#).

5.5 Camera Firmware

Firmware is programming that is inserted into the programmable read-only memory (programmable ROM) of most Point Grey cameras. Firmware is created and tested like software. When ready, it can be distributed like other software and installed in the programmable read-only memory by the user.

The latest firmware versions often include significant bug fixes and feature enhancements. To determine the changes made in a specific firmware version, consult the Release Notes.

Firmware is identified by a version number, a build date, and a description.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
PGR software and firmware version numbering scheme/standards	Knowledge Base Article 96
Determining the firmware version used by a PGR camera	Knowledge Base Article 94
Should I upgrade my camera firmware or software?	Knowledge Base Article 225

5.5.1 Determining Firmware Version

To determine the firmware version number of your camera:

- In LadybugCapPro, open the Camera Control dialog and click on the Camera Information tab.

5.5.2 Upgrading Camera Firmware

Camera firmware can be upgraded or downgraded to later or earlier versions using the UpdatorGUI program that is bundled with the Ladybug SDK available from the [Point Grey downloads site](#).

Before upgrading firmware:

- Install the SDK, downloadable from the [Point Grey downloads site](#).
- Download the firmware file from the [Point Grey downloads site](#).

To open the UpdatorGUI:

Start Menu-->All Programs-->Point Grey Research-->PGR Ladybug-->Utilities-->UpdatorGUI

Select the camera from the list at the top. Click Open to select the firmware file. Then click Update.



Do not disconnect the camera during the update process.

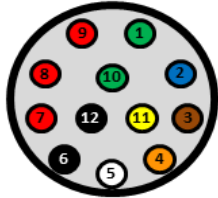
6 Input/Output Control

6.1 General Purpose Input/Output (GPIO)

The camera has an 12-pin GPIO connector on the bottom of the case; refer to the diagram below for wire color-coding. The GPIO is a Hirose waterproof 12-pin female connector (Mfg P/N:LF10WBP-12SD).

The camera comes with a 6-meter power cable and wiring harness with a Hirose 12-pin male connector (Mfg P/N: LF10WBP-12P).

Table 6.1: GPIO pin assignments (as shown looking at rear of camera)

Diagram	Pin	Function	Description
	1	OPTO_GND	Ground for opto-isolated IO pins
	2	IO	Opto-isolated input (default Trigger in)
	3	O1	Opto-isolated output
	4	IO2	Input/Output
	5	+3.3 V	Power external circuitry up to 150 mA
	6	GND	Ground for bi-directional IO, V_{EXT} , +3.3 V pins
	7	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	8	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	9	V_{EXT}	Allows the camera to be powered externally
	10	OPTO_GND	Ground for opto-isolated IO pins
	11	IO3	Input/Output
	12	GND	Ground for bi-directional IO, V_{EXT} , +3.3 V pins

Power must be provided through the GPIO interface. The required input voltage is 12 - 24 V DC.

For more information on camera power, see [Powering the Camera](#).

6.2 GPIO Modes

6.2.1 GPIO Mode 0: Input

When a GPIO pin is put into GPIO Mode 0 it is configured to accept external trigger signals.

6.2.2 GPIO Mode 1: Output

When a GPIO pin is put into GPIO Mode 1 it is configured to send output signals.



*Do **not** connect power to a pin configured as an output (effectively connecting two outputs to each other). Doing so can cause damage to camera electronics.*

6.2.3 GPIO Mode 2: Asynchronous (External) Trigger

When a GPIO pin is put into GPIO Mode 2, and an external trigger mode is enabled (which disables isochronous data transmission), the camera can be asynchronously triggered to grab an image by sending a voltage transition to the pin. See [Asynchronous Triggering on page 40](#).

6.2.4 GPIO Mode 3: Strobe

A GPIO pin in GPIO Mode 3 outputs a voltage pulse of fixed delay, either relative to the start of integration (default) or relative to the time of an asynchronous trigger. A GPIO pin in this mode can be configured to output a variable strobe pattern. See [Programmable Strobe Output on next page](#).

6.3 Programmable Strobe Output

The camera is capable of outputting a strobe pulse off select GPIO pins that are configured as outputs. The start of the strobe can be offset from either the start of exposure (free-running mode) or time of incoming trigger (external trigger mode). By default, a pin that is configured as a strobe output will output a pulse each time the camera begins integration of an image.

The duration of the strobe can also be controlled. Setting a strobe duration value of zero produces a strobe pulse with duration equal to the exposure (shutter) time.

Multiple GPIO pins, configured as outputs, can strobe simultaneously.

Connecting two strobe pins directly together is not supported. Instead, place a diode on each strobe pin.

The camera can also be configured to output a variable strobe pulse pattern. The strobe pattern functionality allows users to define the frames for which the camera will output a strobe. For example, this is useful in situations where a strobe should only fire:

- Every Nth frame (e.g. odd frames from one camera and even frames from another); or
- N frames in a row out of T (e.g. the last 3 frames in a set of 6); or
- Specific frames within a defined period (e.g. frames 1, 5 and 7 in a set of 8)

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Buffering a GPIO pin strobe output signal using an optocoupler to drive external devices	Knowledge Base Article 200
GPIO strobe signal continues after isochronous image transfer stops	Knowledge Base Article 212
Setting a GPIO pin to output a strobe signal pulse pattern	Knowledge Base Article 207

6.4 Debouncer

By default, Point Grey cameras will reject a trigger signal that has a pulse width of less than 16 ticks of the pixel clock. With the debouncer the user can define a debounce value. Once the debouncer is enabled and defined, the camera will reject a trigger signal with a pulse width less than the defined debounce value.

It is recommended to set the debounce value slightly higher than longest expected duration of an invalid signal to compensate for the quality of the input clock signal.

The debouncer is available on GPIO input pins. For the debouncer to take effect, the associated GPIO pin must be in Input mode (GPIO Mode 0) . The debouncer works in all trigger modes, except trigger mode 3 Skip Frames.



Each GPIO has its own input delay time. The debouncer time adds additional delay to the signal on the pin.

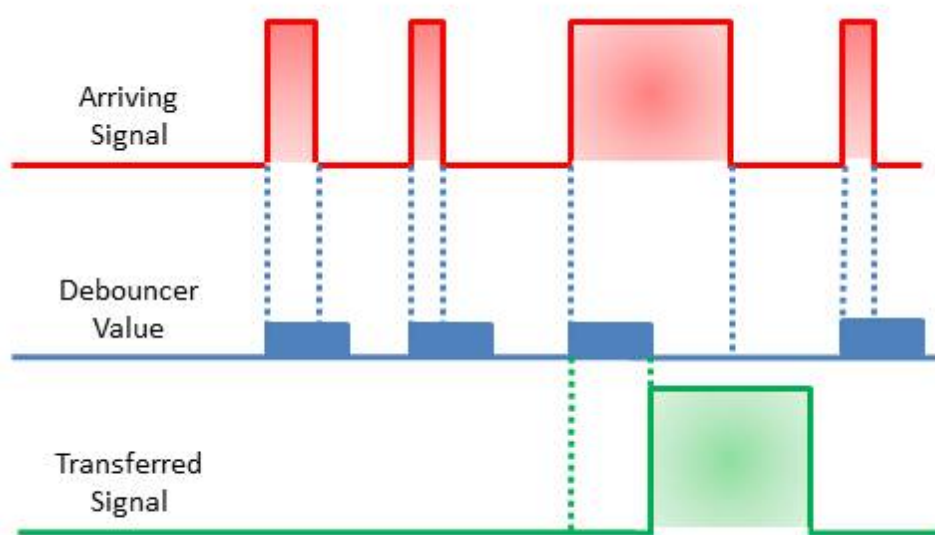


Figure 6.1: Debouncer Filtering Invalid Signals

6.5 12-Pin GPIO Electrical Characteristics

Opto-isolated **input** pins require an external pull up resistor to allow triggering of the camera by shorting the pin to the corresponding opto ground (OPTO_GND). Non opto-isolated input pins are internally pulled high using weak pull-up resistors to allow triggering by shorting the pin to GND. Inputs can also be directly driven from a 3.3 V or 5 V logic output.

The inputs are protected from over voltage. Non-isolated inputs are protected from both over voltage/over current and polarity.

When configured as **outputs**, each line can sink 25 mA of current. To drive external devices that require more, consult [Knowledge Base Article 200](#) for information on buffering an output signal using an optocoupler.

The V_{EXT} pins (Pins 7, 8 and 9) allow the camera to be powered externally. The voltage limit is 12-24 V, and current is limited to 1.5 A.

The **+3.3V** pin (Pin 5) is limited to 150 mA by a fuse. External devices connected to Pin 5 should not attempt to draw higher current.



To avoid damage, connect the OPTO_GND pin first before applying voltage to the GPIO line.

7 Image Acquisition

7.1 Capturing Stream Files


Stream files are saved in the bin folder of the PGR Ladybug installation path.



When capturing stream files, there must be at least 2 GB of free space on the hard drive before writing to disk.

Using LadybugCapPro:

You can record stream files when you start a camera in Live Camera mode, using the controls in the Live Camera Toolbar.

1. From the Settings menu select Camera Control, or click the  button.
 - Use the Camera Control dialog to select your pixel format, trigger mode, and other imaging parameters such as brightness, shutter, gain, auto exposure range, and others.



Your selection of pixel format affects both resolution and frame rate. On Ladybug5, for 12- and 16-bit images some parameters are deferred to post processing.

2. Use the [Live Camera Toolbar](#) to  start,  stop, and  pause recording.

Using Ladybug API:

Example writing to disk using the Ladybug API:

1. Create a stream context (`LadybugStreamContext`) by calling `ladybugCreateStreamContext()`.
2. Initialize the stream context for writing by calling `ladybugInitializeStreamForWriting()`.
3. To write an image to disk, simply grab an image, and pass it to `ladybugWriteImageToStream()`.
4. When all the writing is complete, call `ladybugStopStream()` to stop writing to disk.
5. Destroy the context by calling `ladybugDestroyStreamContext()` when suitable (such as program termination).



When used in conjunction with a [GPS device](#), you can record images to stream files when the GPS location changes after a specified distance. This feature is available using the Ladybug API. For more information, see the [ladybugSimpleRecording](#) example.

7.2 Asynchronous Triggering

The camera supports asynchronous triggering, which allows the start of exposure (shutter) to be initiated by an external electrical source (or hardware trigger) or from an internal software mechanism (software trigger).

Ladybug5 Supported Trigger Modes	
Model	Mode
All	Standard External Trigger (Mode 0)
All	Bulb Shutter Trigger (Mode 1)
All	Skip Frames Trigger (Mode 3)
All	Overlapped Exposure Readout Trigger (Mode 14)
All	Multi-Shot Trigger (Mode 15)

7.2.1 Standard External Trigger (Mode 0)

Trigger Mode 0 is best described as the standard external trigger mode. When the camera is put into Trigger Mode 0, the camera starts integration of the incoming light from external trigger input falling/rising edge. The describes integration time. No parameter is required. The camera can be triggered in this mode by using the GPIO pins as external trigger or by using a software trigger.

It is not possible to trigger the camera at full frame rate using Trigger Mode 0; however, this is possible using [Overlapped Exposure Readout Trigger \(Mode 14\)](#).

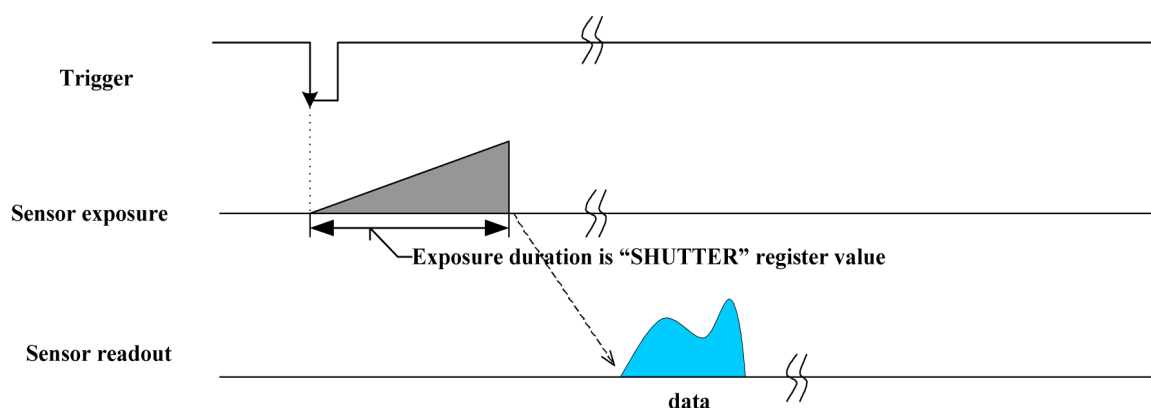


Figure 7.1: Trigger Mode 0 ("Standard External Trigger Mode")

7.2.2 Bulb Shutter Trigger (Mode 1)

Also known as Bulb Shutter mode, the camera starts integration of the incoming light from external trigger input. Integration time is equal to low state time of the external trigger input.

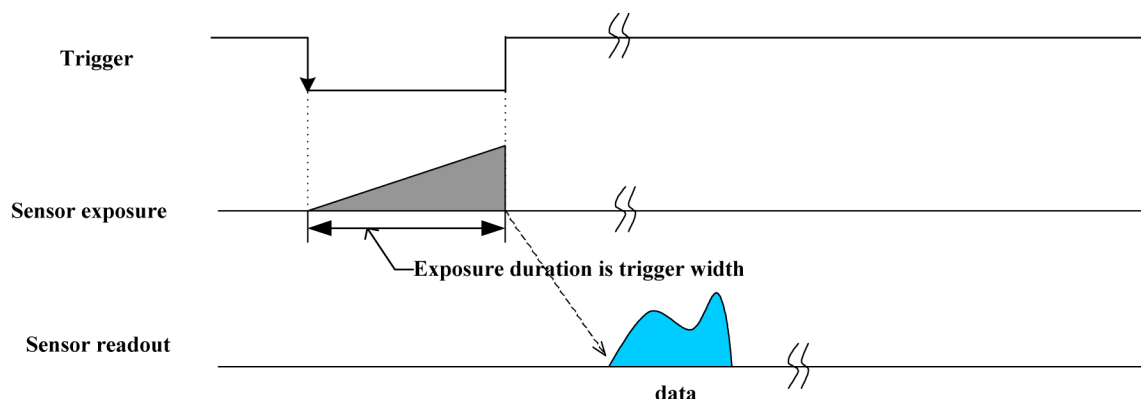


Figure 7.2: Trigger Mode 1 (“Bulb Shutter Mode”)

7.2.3 Skip Frames Trigger (Mode 3)

Trigger Mode 3 allows the user to put the camera into a mode where the camera only transmits one out of N specified images. This is an internal trigger mode that requires no external interaction. Where N is the parameter set in the Trigger Mode, the camera will issue a trigger internally at a cycle time that is N times greater than the current frame rate. As with Trigger Mode 0, the Shutter value describes integration time.

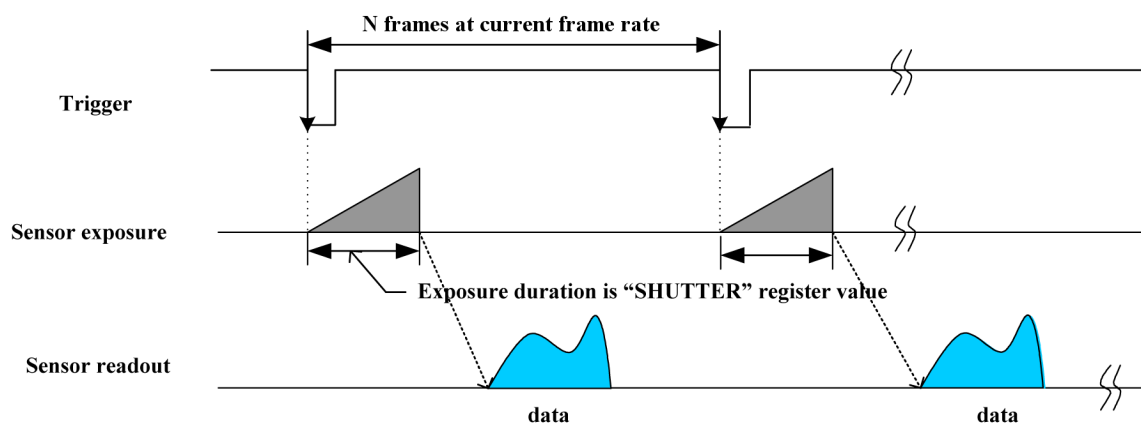


Figure 7.3: Trigger Mode 3 (“Skip Frames Mode”)

7.2.4 Overlapped Exposure Readout Trigger (Mode 14)

Trigger Mode 14 is a vendor-unique trigger mode that is very similar to Trigger Mode 0, but allows for triggering at faster frame rates. This mode works well for users who want to drive exposure start with an external event. However, users who need a precise exposure start should use Trigger Mode 0.

In the figure below, the trigger may be overlapped with the readout of the image, similar to continuous shot (free-running) mode. If the trigger arrives after readout is complete, it will start as quickly as the imaging area can be cleared. If the trigger arrives before the end of shutter integration (that is, before the trigger is *armed*), it is dropped. If the trigger arrives while the image is still being read out of the sensor, the start of exposure will be delayed until the next opportunity to clear the imaging area without injecting noise into the output image. The end of exposure cannot occur before the end of the previous image readout. Therefore, exposure start may be delayed to ensure this, which means priority is given to maintaining the proper exposure time instead of to the trigger start.

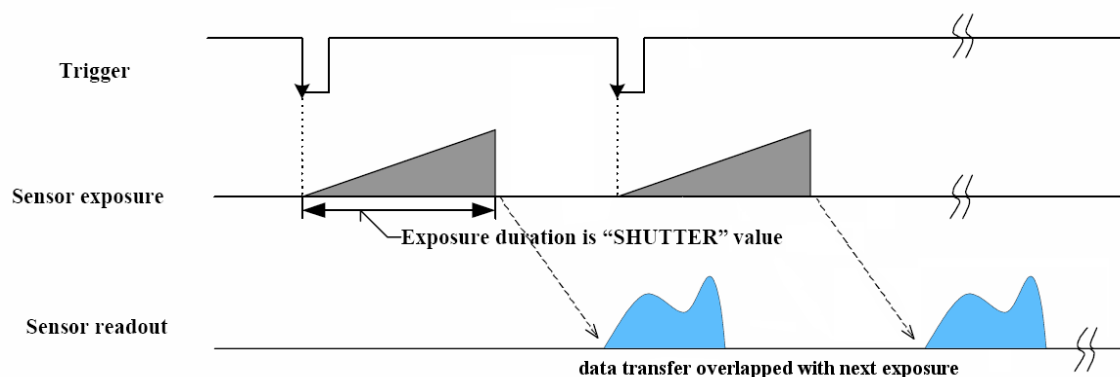


Figure 7.4: Trigger Mode 14 ("Overlapped Exposure/Readout Mode")

7.2.5 Multi-Shot Trigger (Mode 15)

Trigger Mode 15 is a vendor-unique trigger mode that allows the user to fire a single hardware or software trigger and have the camera acquire and stream a predetermined number of images at the current frame rate.

The number of images to be acquired is determined by the parameter specified with the trigger mode. This allows up to 255 images to be acquired from a single trigger. Setting the parameter to 0 results in an infinite number of images to be acquired, essentially allowing users to trigger the camera into a free-running mode.

Once the trigger is fired, the camera will acquire N images with an exposure time equal to the value defined by the shutter, and stream the images to the host system at the current frame rate. Once this is complete, the camera can be triggered again to repeat the sequence.

Any changes to the trigger control cause the current sequence to stop.



During the capture of N images, the camera is still in an asynchronous trigger mode (essentially Trigger Mode 14), rather than continuous (free-running) mode. The result of this is that the frame rate is turned OFF, and the camera put into extended shutter mode. Users should therefore ensure that the maximum shutter time is limited to $1/\text{frame_rate}$ to get the N images captured at the current frame rate.

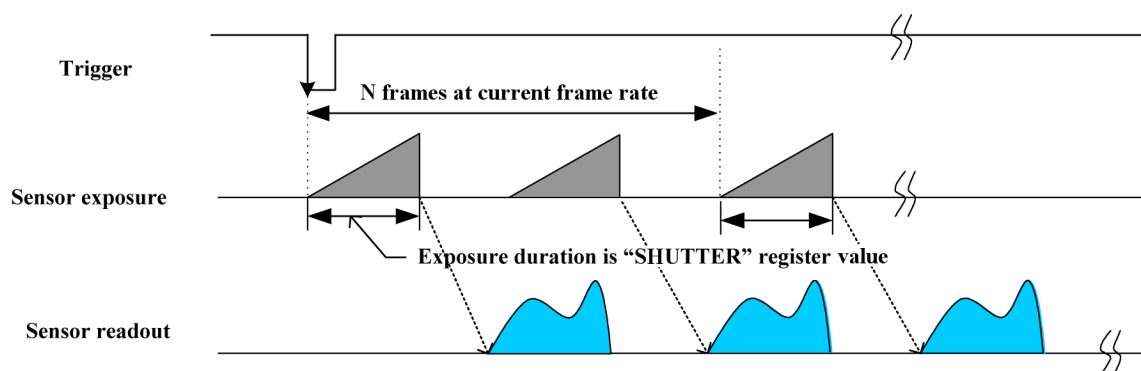


Figure 7.5: Trigger Mode 15 ("Multi-Shot Trigger Mode")

7.3 External Trigger Timing

The time from the external trigger firing to the start of shutter is shown below:

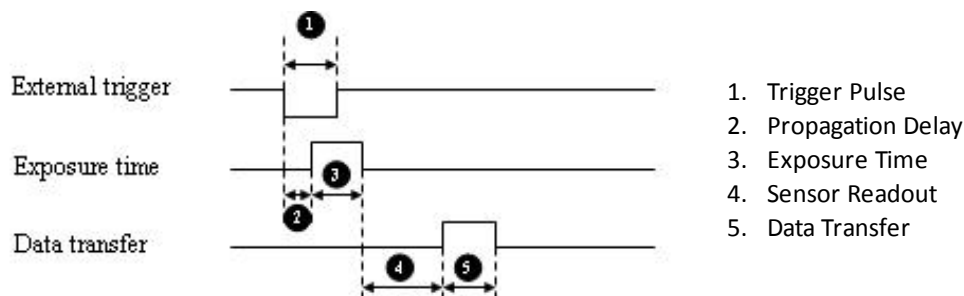


Figure 7.6: External trigger timing characteristics

It is possible for users to measure this themselves by configuring one of the camera's GPIO pins to output a strobe pulse (see [Programmable Strobe Output on page 37](#)) and connecting an oscilloscope up to the input trigger pin and the output strobe pin. The camera will strobe each time an image acquisition is triggered; the start of the strobe pulse represents the start of exposure.

7.4 Camera Behavior Between Triggers

When operating in external trigger mode, the camera clears charges from the sensor at the horizontal pixel clock rate determined by the current frame rate. For example, if the camera is set to 10 FPS, charges are cleared off the sensor at a horizontal pixel clock rate of 15 KHz. This action takes place following shutter integration, until the next trigger is received. At that point, the horizontal clearing operation is aborted, and a final clearing of the entire sensor is performed prior to shutter integration and transmission.

7.5 Changing Video Modes While Triggering

You can change the video format and mode of the camera while operating in trigger mode. Whether the new mode that is requested takes effect in the next triggered image depends on the timing of the request and the trigger mode in effect. The diagram below illustrates the relationship between triggering and changing video modes.

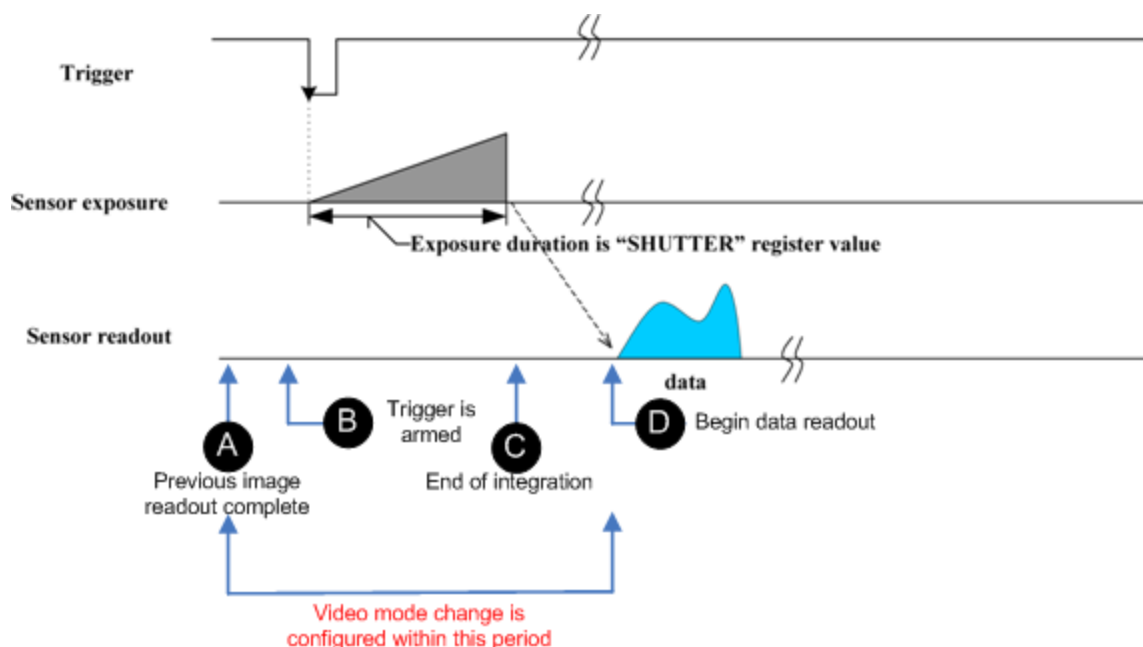


Figure 7.7: Relationship Between External Triggering and Video Mode Change Request

When operating in trigger mode 0 ([page 40](#)) or trigger mode 1 ([page 41](#)), video mode change requests made before point A on the diagram are honored in the next triggered image. The camera will attempt to honor a request made after point A in the next triggered image, but this attempt may or may not succeed, in which case the request is honored one triggered image later. In trigger mode 14 ([page 42](#)), point B occurs before point A. The result is that, in most cases, there is a delay of one triggered image for a video mode request, made before the configuration period, to take effect. In trigger mode 15 ([page 43](#)), change requests made after point A for any given image readout are honored only after a delay of one image.

7.6 Asynchronous Software Triggering

Shutter integration can be initiated by a software trigger.

The time from a software trigger initiation to the start of shutter is shown below:

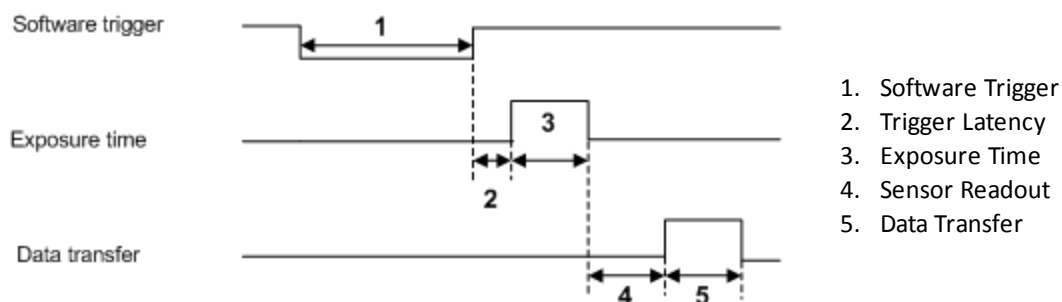


Figure 7.8: Software trigger timing

The time from when the software trigger is written on the camera to when the start of integration occurs can only be approximated. We then add the trigger latency (time from the trigger pulse to the start of integration) to this.




This timing is solely from the camera perspective. It is virtually impossible to predict timing from the user perspective due to latencies in the processing of commands on the host PC.

7.7 Asynchronous Trigger Settings

Using LadybugCapPro:

You can control the trigger in the Camera Settings:

1. From the Settings menu, select Camera Control, or click the  button.
2. Click the Trigger / Strobe tab.
3. Under Trigger Control:
 - Select Enable/Disable trigger.
 - Select a trigger mode from the drop-down list.
 - Enter a parameter.
4. Under Trigger Delay:
 - Select Enable/Disable delay.
 - Use the sliding scale or enter a value for the trigger delay. The trigger delay controls the delay between the trigger event and the start of integration (shutter open).
5. To use a software trigger, click the Fire Software Trigger button.

7.8 Working with GPS Data

You can use a GPS receiver in conjunction with a Ladybug camera to record GPS data with stream files, generate Google Map or Google Earth files, and download a GPS data file.




You can record images to stream files when the GPS location changes after a specified distance. This feature is available using the Ladybug API. For more information, see the [ladybugSimpleRecording](#) example.


When using a GPS receiver with your Ladybug, keep in mind the following:

- Your GPS receiver should have a serial or USB interface for connecting with your laptop and be able to stream NMEA 0183 data in real time.
- To provide reliable data, your GPS device should show a connection with at least 3 satellites.
- It may take some time between when you first connect the GPS device to your PC and when it is recognized and configured for use with LadybugCapPro.
- The following GPS NMEA data structures are supported: GPGLL, GPRMC, GPGGA, GPGSA, GPGSV, GPZDA, GPVTG and GPGLL.

For information about how GPS data is incorporated into stream files, see [Stream File Format](#).

Configuring the GPS receiver




Before capturing GPS data, use the LadybugCapPro Options button () on the [Main Toolbar](#) to specify some basic settings for communicating with your GPS receiver.

Control	Description
Port Number	<p>The port to which the GPS receiver is connected. To determine the port, expand the Ports node in the Windows Device Manager.</p> <p> LadybugCapPro does not automatically detect this setting upon startup.</p>
Baud Rate	The signaling event rate at which the GPS receiver communicates with the PC. This rate is limited by what the GPS unit supports. The NMEA 0183 standard supports the default value of 4800.
Data Update Interval	The time interval at which positional data is updated from the GPS to the PC. This rate can be set up to the maximum supported by the GPS unit. The default value is 1000 ms.
Start GPS when starting LadybugCapPro	When checked, specifies that the GPS unit should transmit positional data as soon as the LadybugCapPro application starts in live camera mode, using the existing settings.
Google Map Height /Google Map Width	Specifies the dimensions of the Google Maps that are generated. These dimensions affect the amount of area covered in the maps, rather than their resolution.

Using the GPS Toolbar



Once you have configured your GPS receiver, you are ready to use the GPS toolbar to record GPS data and generate Google Map or Google Earth files.

Icon	Description
	Instructs LadybugCapPro to begin receiving positional data from the GPS unit. When used in conjunction with Capturing Stream Files , GPS data is saved with the stream file. For more information, see Stream File Format . This control is not available in recorded stream mode. Click again to stop GPS recording.
	Creates a Google Map file from the GPS data that was previously recorded with the stream file, and allows you the option to load it. An internet connection is required to view the file. Google Maps are saved as .html files in the bin folder of the PGR Ladybug installation directory. This control is not available in live image-grabbing mode.
	Creates a Google Earth file from the GPS data recorded with the stream file, and allows you the option to load it. The Google Earth application and an internet connection are required to view the file. Google Earth files are stored as .kml files in the bin folder of the PGR Ladybug installation directory. This control is not available in image capture mode.

Generating a GPS data file

You can download the data file containing the GPS data for each frame of a recorded stream file. From the **GPS** menu item, select **Generate GPS/frame information**. After the file is generated, a dialog box informs you of the location of the file.

7.8.1 Using GPS with the Ladybug API

For a code example, please see the [ladybugSimpleGPS](#) example. Examples can be accessed from:

Start Menu -> Point Grey Research -> PGR Ladybug -> Examples.

The Ladybug library has the ability to interface with a GPS device and insert NMEA sentence data into Ladybug images. The data can then be extracted at a later time and be used to generate HTML data, which can be displayed as a Google Map, or KML data, which can be loaded into Google Earth.

The NMEA sentences supported by the Ladybug library are:

- GPGGA
- GPGSA
- GPGSV
- GPRMC
- GPZDA
- GPVTG
- GPGLL

Detecting the GPS COM Port

Using the GPS functionality requires the use of a GPS device. The COM port that the GPS device is connected to must

be known. To determine the port, perform the following steps:

- Right click on "My Computer".
- Click on the Hardware tab and click the "Device Manager" button.
- Expand the "Ports (COM & LPT)" node and note the COM port that the GPS device is mapped to.

Using the Ladybug API for GPS

The following steps provide a brief overview of how to use the GPS functionality of the Ladybug library:

1. Create a GPS context (`LadybugGPSContext`) by calling `ladybugCreateGPSContext()`. This may be done at the same time as the creation of the Ladybug camera context.
2. Register the GPS context with the Ladybug camera context by calling `ladybugRegisterGPS()`. A single GPS context can be registered with several Ladybug camera contexts.
3. Initialize the device by calling `ladybugInitializeGPS()`.
4. Start the GPS device by calling `ladybugStartGPS()`. This may be called when `ladybugStart()` is called. It takes about 5 seconds for the GPS data to become available.
5. Once image grabbing is active, there are several options for image grabbing. The options, with further explanations below, are:

- *Getting NMEA data from a GPS device or LadybugImage*

The functions `ladybugGetGPSNMEAData` or `ladybugGetGPSNMEADataFromImage` can be used to get a single NMEA sentence from a GPS device or `LadybugImage`. This is usually sufficient if only a small set of values are needed (for example, only latitude and longitude).

If all the sentences are required, calling `ladybugGetAllGPSNMEAData` or `ladybugGetAllGPSNMEADataFromImage` will populate a `LadybugNMEAGPSData` structure with all the supported NMEA sentences (if available).

Each NMEA structure has a boolean value called `bValidData`. This value is true only if the data contained in that structure is valid.

- *Getting GPS data from a LadybugImageInfo structure*

When grabbing images in JPEG mode, a filled `LadybugImageInfo` structure is available in each `LadybugImage`. When the GPS functionality is active, the following values are populated:

- `dGPSAltitude`
- `dGPSLatitude`
- `dGPSLongitude`

If any of these values are equal to `LADYBUG_INVALID_GPS_DATA`, then they should be considered invalid.

6. Once image grabbing has been completed, call `ladybugStopGPS()` to stop data acquisition from the GPS device.

7. Unregister the GPS context by calling `ladybugUnregisterGPS()`.
8. Destroy the context by calling `ladybugDestroyGPSContext()`.

7.8.2 Generating Google Maps and Google Earth data

The Ladybug library allows the user to retrieve GPS data from a stream file and automatically generate Google Maps or Google Earth data, which can then be loaded in their respective applications.

Using LadybugCapPro:

From the GPS menu, select Generate Google Map HTML or click the  button.

From the GPS menu, select Generate Google Earth KML or click the  button.

Using Ladybug API:

If a stream context has already been initialized for reading, calling `ladybugWriteGPSSummaryDataToFile` with the relevant `LadybugGPSFileType` generates GPS data for the entire stream file.

8 Imaging Parameters

8.1 Pixel Formats, Frame Rates, and Image Sizes

The Ladybug captures images in Format 7 custom image mode. The table below outlines the pixel formats that are supported. The implementation of these formats and the frame rates that are possible are subject to change across firmware versions.

Changing the size of the image or the pixel encoding format requires an undetermined length of frame times, including the stop/start procedure, tearing down/reallocating image buffers, write times to the camera, etc.

Table 8.1: Ladybug5 Supported image formats

Pixel Format	Frame Rate		Image Size	
	Full 2448 x 2048	Half 2448 x 1024	Full 2448 x 2048	Half 2448 x 1024
Raw8	8	16	30 MB	15 MB
JPEG8 (Compressed)	10	16	Variable	Variable
JPEG8 (Uncompressed)	8	16	30 MB	15 MB
Raw12	5	10.5	45 MB	22.5 MB
JPEG12 (Compressed)	10	16	Variable	Variable
JPEG12 (Uncompressed)	5	10.5	45 MB	22.5 MB
Raw16*	4	8	60 MB	30 MB
*Due to the 12-bit ADC , a 16-bit format is 12-bits padded with zeros.				

To maximize post processing and frame rate benefits, JPEG12 is the recommended format.

Ladybug sensors are arranged in "portrait" orientation to increase the vertical field of view. As a result, height measurements appear as width in the Ladybug SDK, and width measurements appear as height.

The image size accounts for six separate images captured by each of the camera's six sensors prior to blending and stitching. Image size for JPEG compressed images is dependent on variables such as image composition and compression rate. For more information, see [JPEG Compression and JPEG Buffer Usage](#).

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Overview of multithreading optimizations in Ladybug library	Knowledge Base Article 264
Ladybug's JPEG image quality and buffer usage settings	Knowledge Base Article 288

Determining Image Size

For Ladybug5, the maximum size of a single camera image after image conversion is 2448 x 2048.

If your software allocates its own memory for image conversion and texture updating, the amount of memory to be allocated is:

$$\text{Image Size in MB} = (\text{Number of cameras} \times W \times H \times \text{BPP}) / 1000000$$

Bytes per pixel (BPP) is related to pixel format.

- 8-bit = 1 BPP
- 12-bit = 1.5 BPP
- 16-bit = 2 BPP

For example, the memory size allocation required for a JPEG8 image after conversion is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Image Size} &= (\text{Number of cameras} \times W \times H \times \text{BPP}) / 1000000 \\ \text{Image Size} &= (6 \times 2448 \times 2048 \times 1) / 1000000 \\ \text{Image Size} &= 30081024 / 1000000 \\ \text{Image Size} &= 30 \text{ MB} \end{aligned}$$

Determining Bandwidth

To calculate your bandwidth requirements, use your required resolution, frame rate, and pixel format as follows:

$$\text{Bandwidth in MB/s} = (\text{Number of Cameras} \times W \times H \times \text{FPS} \times \text{BPP}) / 1000000$$

For example, a Raw8 full size image at maximum frame rate would use the following bandwidth:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bandwidth} &= (\text{Number of Cameras} \times W \times H \times \text{FPS} \times \text{BPP}) / 1000000 \\ \text{Bandwidth} &= (6 \times 2448 \times 2048 \times 8 \times 1) / 1000000 \\ \text{Bandwidth} &= 240648192 / 1000000 \\ \text{Bandwidth} &= 241 \text{ MB/s} \end{aligned}$$

Determining Frame Rate

The theoretical frame rate (FPS) that can be achieved can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Frame Rate in FPS} = (\text{Bandwidth} / (W \times H \times \text{BPP})) / \text{Number of Cameras}$$

For example, assuming a Raw8 full size image, using 240 MB/s bandwidth, the calculation would be as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Frame Rate} &= (\text{Bandwidth} / (W \times H \times \text{BPP})) / \text{Number of Cameras} \\ \text{Frame Rate} &= (240000000 / (2448 \times 2048 \times 1)) / 6 \\ \text{Frame Rate} &= 7.98 \text{ FPS} \end{aligned}$$

8.2 Pixel Formats

Pixel formats are an encoding scheme by which color or monochrome images are produced from raw image data. Most pixel formats are numbered 8, 12, or 16 to represent the number of bits per pixel.

The Ladybug5's [Analog-to-Digital Converter](#), which digitizes the images, is configured to a fixed bit output (12-bit). If the pixel format selected has fewer bits per pixel than the ADC output, the least significant bits are dropped. If the pixel format selected has greater bits per pixel than the ADC output, the least significant bits are padded with zeros.

Pixel Format	Bits per Pixel
Raw 8, JPEG 8	8
Raw 12, JPEG 12	12
Raw 16	16

8.2.1 Raw

Raw is a pixel format where image data is Bayer RAW untouched by any on board processing. Selecting a Raw format bypasses the FPGA/color core which disables image processing, such as gamma/LUT and color encoding.

8.2.2 JPEG

JPEG is a pixel format which supports 16.7 million colors and follows a standard for compression by disposing of redundant pixels. The degree of compression can be adjusted allowing for a balance between image size and image quality.


8.2.3 JPEG Compression and JPEG Buffer Usage

When the camera operates in a JPEG-compressed imaging mode, the compressor unit processes image data based on a specified compression rate. Although specifying a higher JPEG quality value produces higher-quality images, more data must accumulate in the image buffer on the PC, increasing the risk of buffer overflow errors.

When JPEG compression is set to auto mode, compression quality adjusts automatically to the following parameters:

- The maximum allowed by the size of the image buffer on the PC (controlled by the camera driver).
- Auto-buffer usage. This setting is the percentage of the image buffer that is used for image data, and is configurable when JPEG compression is in auto mode. Specifying a value less than the maximum (100%) allows for room in the buffer to accommodate extra images, depending on scene variations from frame to frame. A setting between 80%-95% is recommended. The visual improvement in compression quality that results from a setting higher than 95% is negligible compared to the increased amount of data generated.

To adjust the compression control:

1. From the Settings menu, select Camera Control, or click the  button.
2. Click the Ladybug Settings tab.
3. Under Compression Control:
 - Select Auto for JPEG quality to specify auto compression. Then select an Auto Buffer Usage percentage from the sliding scale. A setting between 80 - 95% is recommended.

Or,

- Deselect Auto JPEG Quality and select a fixed JPEG Quality percentage from the sliding scale. A setting between 80 - 95% is recommended.

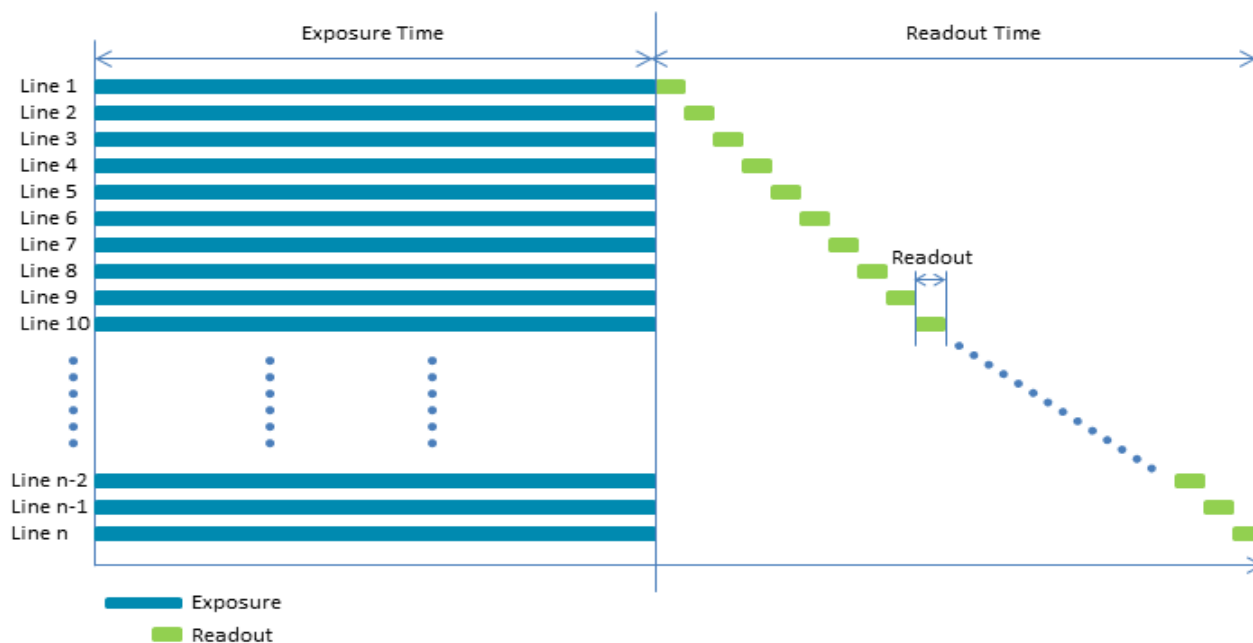
Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Ladybug JPEG image quality and buffer size settings	Knowledge Base Article 288

8.3 Shutter Type

8.3.1 Global Shutter

For cameras with a global shutter sensor, for each frame all of the lines start and stop exposure at the same time. The exposure time for each line is the same. Following exposure, data readout begins. The readout time for each line is the same but the start and end times are staggered.



Some advantages of global shutter are more uniform brightness and minimal motion blur.

8.4 Brightness

Brightness, also known as offset or black level, controls the level of black in an image.

The camera supports brightness control.

To adjust brightness:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.
- **During Post Processing**—From the Settings menu, select Image Processing and select Black Level to make an adjustment with the slider. See [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

8.5 Shutter Time

The Ladybug5 supports Automatic, Manual, and One Push control of the image sensor shutter time.

Shutter times are scaled by the divider of the basic frame rate. For example, dividing the frame rate by two (e.g. 15 FPS to 7.5 FPS) causes the maximum shutter time to double (e.g. 66 ms to 133 ms).

The supported shutter time range is 0.02 ms to 2 seconds (extended shutter).



The terms “integration”, “exposure” and “shutter” are interchangeable.

The time between the end of shutter for consecutive frames is always constant. However, if the shutter time is continually changing (e.g. being controlled by Auto Exposure), the time between the beginning of consecutive integrations will change. If the shutter time is constant, the time between integrations will also be constant.

The camera continually exposes and reads image data off of the sensor under the following conditions:

1. The camera is powered up; and
2. The camera is in free running, not asynchronous trigger, mode. When in trigger mode, the camera simply clears the sensor and does not read the data off the sensor.

The camera continues to expose images even when data transfer is disabled and images are not being streamed to the computer. The camera continues exposing images in order to keep things such as the auto exposure algorithm (if enabled) running. This ensures that when a user starts requesting images, the first image received is properly exposed.

When operating in free-running mode, changes to the shutter value take effect with the next captured image, or the one after next. Changes to shutter in asynchronous trigger mode generally take effect on the next trigger.

To adjust shutter:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.

8.5.1 Extended ShutterTimes

The maximum shutter time can be extended beyond the normal range by disabling the frame rate. Once the frame rate is disabled, you should see the maximum value of the shutter time increase.

To enable extended shutter:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab. Deselect Frame Rate On/Off to disable the frame rate.

8.5.2 Shutter Range

The camera offers three preset shutter range modes to set the maximum shutter value:

- **Motion**—maximum shutter is set to as short as possible to prevent motion blur. Best used outdoors or images may be too dark. This is the default.
- **Indoor**—maximum shutter is slightly longer than the motion mode, for use in indoor applications.
- **Low Noise**—maximum shutter is not restricted.

To set the shutter range:

- **During Capture**—From the [Live Camera Toolbar](#), make a selection from the Shutter range drop-down.

8.6 Gain

Gain is the amount of amplification that is applied to a pixel by the A/D converter. An increase in gain can result in a brighter image but also an increase in noise.

The Ladybug5 supports Automatic and One Push gain modes. The A/D converter provides a PxGA gain stage (white balance/preamp) and VGA gain stage. The main VGA gain stage is available to the user, and is variable from 0 - 18 dB.



Increasing gain also increases image noise, which can affect image quality. To increase image intensity, try adjusting the lens aperture (iris) and [Shutter Time](#) time first.

To adjust gain:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.
- **During Post Processing**—From the Settings menu, select Image Processing. Select Exposure and then select Manual from the drop-down to adjust the Gain with the slider.

8.7 Auto Exposure

Auto exposure allows the camera to automatically control shutter and/or gain in order to achieve a specific average image intensity. Additionally, users can specify the range of allowed values used by the auto-exposure algorithm by setting the auto exposure range, the auto shutter range, and the auto gain range.

Auto Exposure allows the user to control the camera system's automatic exposure algorithm. It has three useful states:

State	Description
Off	Control of the exposure is achieved via setting both Shutter and Gain. This mode is achieved by setting Auto Exposure to Off, or by setting Shutter and Gain to Manual.
Manual Exposure Control	The camera automatically modifies Shutter and Gain to try to match the average image intensity to the Auto Exposure value. This mode is achieved by setting Auto Exposure to Manual and either/both of Shutter and Gain to Automatic.
Auto Exposure Control	The camera automatically modifies the value in order to produce an image that is visually pleasing. This mode is achieved by setting the all three of Auto Exposure, Shutter, and Gain to Automatic. In this mode, the value reflects the average image intensity.

Auto Exposure can only control the exposure when Shutter and/or Gain are set to Automatic. If only one of the settings is in "auto" mode then the auto exposure controller attempts to control the image intensity using just that one setting. If both of these settings are in "auto" mode the auto exposure controller uses a shutter-before-gain heuristic to try and maximize the signal-to-noise ratio by favoring a longer shutter time over a larger gain value.

The auto exposure algorithm is only applied to the active region of interest, and not the entire array of active pixels.

There are four parameters that affect Auto Exposure:

Auto Exposure Range—Allows the user to specify the range of allowed exposure values to be used by the automatic exposure controller when in auto mode.

Auto Shutter Range—Allows the user to specify the range of shutter values to be used by the automatic exposure controller which is generally some subset of the entire shutter range.

Auto Gain Range—Allows the user to specify the range of gain values to be used by the automatic exposure controller which is generally some subset of the entire gain range.

Auto Exposure ROI—Allows the user to specify a region of interest within the full image to be used for both auto exposure and white balance. The ROI position and size are relative to the transmitted image. If the request ROI is of zero width or height, the entire image is used.

Auto exposure can be controlled on each of the six sensors independently. For more information, see [Independent Sensor Control of Shutter, Gain and Auto Exposure on next page](#).

To control auto exposure:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.
- **During Post Processing**—From the Settings menu, select Image Processing. Select Exposure and then select Automatic from the drop-down to adjust with the slider. Select an ROI from the drop-down. See [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

8.7.1 Auto Exposure ROI

There are three preset modes for the auto exposure algorithm:

- **Bottom 50%**—uses only the bottom 50% of the five side cameras and excludes the top camera from its calculations.
- **Top 50%**—uses only top 50% of the five side cameras and includes the top camera in its calculations. This is the upside down version of the first mode, used when the camera is mounted upside down (for example, on a helicopter).
- **Full Image**—uses the entire image of all six cameras for its calculations. This is the default.

For 8-bit pixel formats, the auto exposure modes are set for image capture. For 12- and 16-bit pixel formats, the auto exposure modes are set both for image capture and post processing on the PC.

To select an auto exposure ROI:

During Capture:

- From the [Live Camera Toolbar](#), make a selection from the AE ROI drop-down.

During Post Processing:

1. From the Settings menu, select Image Processing.
2. Select Exposure and then select Automatic from the drop-down to adjust with the slider.
3. Select an ROI from the drop-down.

8.8 Independent Sensor Control of Shutter, Gain and Auto Exposure

The Independent Sensor Control feature provides customized control of exposure for each of the six cameras on the camera system independently. This feature allows users to acquire images with greater dynamic range of the overall scene.




Independent Sensor Control provides independent control of exposure-related features only. This feature does not encompass other camera control settings such as gamma or white balance.

Global control applies the same setting (automatic or manual) and value to all six cameras. Independent control allows separate settings (automatic or manual) and values to each camera.

- If global shutter is off, shutter can be independently controlled.
- If global gain is off, gain can be independently controlled.
- If either global shutter or global gain is off, exposure can be independently controlled.

To control shutter, gain, and exposure:

During Capture:

- From the Settings menu, select Camera Control, or click the  button.
 - Global control of shutter, gain, and exposure is set on the Camera Settings tab.
 - Independent control of shutter, gain, and exposure is set on the Ladybug Settings tab.

8.9 Gamma

The camera supports gamma functionality.

Sensor manufacturers strive to make the transfer characteristics of sensors inherently linear, which means that as the number of photons hitting the imaging sensor increases, the resulting image intensity increases are linear. Gamma can be used to apply a non-linear mapping of the images produced by the camera. Gamma is applied after analog-to-digital conversion and is available in all pixel formats. Gamma values between 0.5 and 1 result in decreased brightness effect, while values between 1 and 4 produce an increased brightness effect. By default, Gamma is enabled and has a value of 1.25. To obtain a linear response, disable gamma.

For 8-bit, gamma is applied as:

$$\text{OUT} = 255 * (\text{IN} / 255) ^ {1/\text{gamma}}$$

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
How is gamma calculated and applied?	Knowledge Base Article 391

To adjust gamma:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.
- **During Post Processing**—From the Settings menu, select Image Processing. Select Gamma to adjust with the slider. See [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

8.10 High Dynamic Range (HDR) Imaging

Generally speaking, digital camera systems are not capable of accurately capturing many of the high dynamic range scenes that they are exposed to in real world settings. That is, they may not be able to capture features in both the

darkest and brightest areas of an image simultaneously - darker portions of the image are too dark or brighter portions of the image are too bright. High Dynamic Range (HDR) mode helps to overcome this problem by capturing images with varying exposure settings. HDR is best suited for stationary applications.

The camera can be set into an HDR mode in which it cycles between 4 user-defined shutter and gain settings, applying one gain and shutter value pair per frame. This allows images representing a wide range of shutter and gain settings to be collected in a short time to be combined into a final HDR image later. The camera does not create the final HDR image; this must be done by the user.

The HDR interface contains gain and shutter controls for 4 consecutive frames. When **Enable high dynamic range** is checked, the camera cycles between settings 1-4, one set of settings per consecutive frame.

To enable HDR:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the High Dynamic Range tab.
- **Ladybug SDK sample program**—[ladybugCaptureHDRImage](#)

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Capturing HDR Images with Ladybug and Ladybug2	Knowledge Base Article 116

8.11 Embedded Image Information

This setting controls the frame-specific information that is embedded into the first several pixels of the image. The first byte of embedded image data starts at pixel 0,0 (column 0, row 0) and continues in the first row of the image data: (1, 0), (2,0), and so forth. Users using color cameras that perform Bayer color processing on the computer must extract the value from the non-color processed image in order for the data to be valid.



Embedded image values are those in effect at the end of shutter integration.

Each piece of information takes up 32-bits (4 bytes) of the image. When the camera is using an 8-bit pixel format, this is 4 pixels worth of data.

The following frame-specific information can be provided:

- Timestamp
- Gain
- Shutter
- Brightness
- White Balance
- Frame counter
- Strobe Pattern counter
- GPIO pin state
- ROI position

The LadybugImageInfo structure in ladybug.h contains the format of the embedded information. This information is always provided at the start of the image.

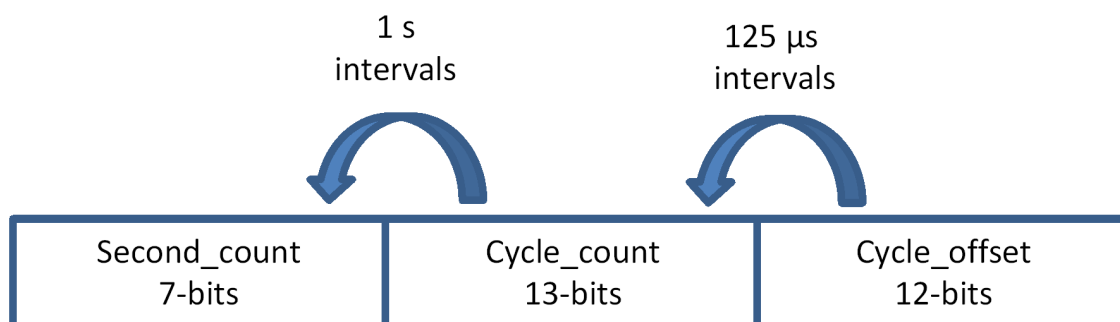
If only Shutter embedding were enabled, then the first 4 bytes of the image would contain Shutter information for that image. Similarly, if only Brightness embedding were enabled, the first 4 bytes would contain Brightness information.

To access embedded information:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Advanced Camera Settings tab.

Interpreting Timestamp information

The Timestamp format is as follows (some cameras replace the bottom 4 bits of the cycle offset with a 4-bit version of the Frame Counter):



Cycle_count increments from 0 to 7999, which equals one second.

Second_count increments from 0 to 127.

All counters reset to 0 at the end of each cycle.

Interpreting ROI information

The first two bytes are the distance from the left frame border that the region of interest (ROI) is shifted. The next two bytes are the distance from the top frame border that the ROI is shifted.

8.12 White Balance

The Ladybug5 supports white balance adjustment, which is a system of color correction to account for differing lighting conditions. Adjusting white balance by modifying the relative gain of R, G and B in an image enables white areas to look "whiter". Taking some subset of the target image and looking at the relative red to green and blue to green response, the objective is to scale the red and blue channels so that the response is 1:1:1.

The user can adjust the red and blue values. Both values specify relative gain, with a value that is half the maximum value being a relative gain of zero.

White Balance has two states:

State	Description
Off	The same gain is applied to all pixels in the Bayer tiling.
On/Manual	The Red value is applied to the red pixels of the Bayer tiling and the Blue value is applied to the blue pixels of the Bayer tiling.

The following table illustrates the default gain settings for most cameras.

	Red	Blue
Black and White	32	32
Color	1023	1023

To adjust white balance:

- **During Capture**—From the Settings menu, select Camera Control and click the Camera Settings tab.
- **During Post Processing**—From the Settings menu, select Image Processing. Select White Balance to make custom adjustments with the sliders, or select presets from the drop-down list. See [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#)

8.13 Bayer Color Processing

A Bayer tile pattern color filter array captures the intensity red, green or blue in each pixel on the sensor. The image below is an example of a Bayer tile pattern.

G1	R2	G3	R4	G5
B6	G7	B8	G9	B10
G11	R12	G13	R14	G15
B16	G17	B18	G19	B20
G21	R22	G23	R24	G25

Figure 8.1: Example Bayer Tile Pattern

In order to produce color (e.g. RGB, YUV) and greyscale (e.g. Y8, Y16) images, color models perform on-board processing of the Bayer tile pattern output produced by the sensor.


Conversion from RGB to YUV uses the following formula:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{601} \\ C_B \\ C_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 16 \\ 128 \\ 128 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{256} \begin{bmatrix} 65.738 & 129.057 & 25.064 \\ -37.945 & -74.494 & 112.439 \\ 112.439 & -94.154 & -18.285 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_{255} \\ G_{255} \\ B_{255} \end{bmatrix}$$

To convert the Bayer tile pattern to greyscale, the camera adds the value for each of the RGB components in the color processed pixel to produce a single greyscale (Y) value for that pixel, as follows:

$$Y = R/4 + G/2 + B/4$$

To control Bayer color processing:

- **During Post Processing**—Click the  button to select the algorithm used to convert raw Bayer-tiled image data to 24-bit RGB images. Lower-quality algorithms can increase the LadybugCapPro display rate, and higher-quality algorithms can decrease the display rate. Two additional algorithms are:
 - **High Quality Linear on GPU**: Same output as High Quality Linear, but better performance on graphics cards with NVidia CUDA support.
 - **Directional Filter**: Highest quality output, but significantly better performance than Rigorous.

Accessing Raw Bayer Data

The actual physical arrangement of the red, green and blue "pixels" for a given camera is determined by the arrangement of the color filter array on the imaging sensor itself. The format, or order, in which this raw color data is streamed out, however, depends on the specific camera model and firmware version.

Raw image data can be accessed programmatically via the pData pointer in the LadybugImage structure (e.g. LadybugImage.pData). In Raw8 modes, the first byte represents the pixel at (row 0, column 0), the second byte at (row 0, column 1), etc. In the case of a camera that is streaming Raw8 image data in RGGB format, if we access the image data via the pData pointer we have the following:

- pData[0] = Row 0, Column 0 = red pixel (R)
- pData[1] = Row 0, Column 1 = green pixel (G)
- pData[1616] = Row 1, Column 0 = green pixel (G)
- pData[1617] = Row 1, Column 1 = blue pixel (B)

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
Different color processing algorithms	Knowledge Base Article 33
Writing color processing software and color interpolation algorithms	Knowledge Base Article 37
How is color processing performed on my camera's images?	Knowledge Base Article 89

9 Post Processing Control



The options available for post processing control are dependent on the pixel format chosen during image capture. 12- and 16-bit formats have more post processing options than 8-bit formats.

Certain parameters can be adjusted after image capture during post processing, including:


- Stabilization
- Vertical tilt
- Stitching
- Image parameters such as black level, exposure, gamma, tone mapping, white balance

For 8-bit formats see [Adjusting 8-bit Images](#).

For 12- and 16-bit formats see [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

9.1 Reading Stream Files

Using LadybugCapPro:

From the File menu, select New or click the  button. Click Load Stream File. Select your file and click Open.



When LadybugCapPro is launched, it prompts you to start a camera or load a stream file.

Using Ladybug API:

The following steps provide a brief overview of how to use the stream functionality of the Ladybug library to read a stream from disk:

1. Create a stream context (`LadybugStreamContext`) by calling `ladybugCreateStreamContext()`.
2. Initialize the stream context for reading by calling `ladybugInitializeStreamForReading()`.
3. At this point, additional information about the stream can be obtained by calling `ladybugGetStreamHeader` and `ladybugGetStreamNumOfImages`.
4. If a specific image is required, calling `ladybugGoToImage()` will move the stream to the specified image. Otherwise, `ladybugReadImageFromStream()` will retrieve the image from the current reading pointer.
5. When reading is complete, call `ladybugStopStream()` to stop reading.
6. Destroy the context by calling `ladybugDestroyStreamContext()` when suitable (such as program termination).


9.2 Working with Images

In both live camera and recorded video modes, you can use the [Image Processing Toolbar](#) to change the way the camera processes and renders images. You can also click and drag inside the image display to render image rotation and magnification in different ways.

9.2.1 Falloff Correction

Falloff Correction adjusts the intensity of light in images to compensate for a vignetting effect. This control is disabled by default.

To enable fall off correction:


1. From the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, or, from the Settings menu select Falloff Correction.
2. Select Enable falloff correction.
3. Specify an attenuation value with the slider or textbox. The attenuation value regulates the degree of adjustment to apply.
4. Click OK.

9.2.2 Blending Width

Blending is the process of adjusting pixel values in each image that overlap with the fields of adjacent images to minimize the effect of pronounced borders. The default width of 100 pixels is suitable for the 20-meter sphere radius to which Ladybug cameras are pre-calibrated. To change the sphere radius see [Adjusting Sphere Size for Stitching](#).

The blending width control allows you to adjust the pixel width along the sides of each of the six images within which blending takes place prior to stitching.

To modify the blending width:

1. From the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, or, from the Settings menu select Blending Width.
2. Specify a blending width with the slider or textbox.
3. Click OK.


9.2.3 Rendering the Image for Display





These controls affect video display only. To specify how images are rendered when outputting to video, specify an Output Type using the [Stream Processing Toolbar](#).

You can change the way images are rendered for display. See [Projection Types](#) for detailed information.

To modify the image display:

1. From the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, then select an image type from the drop-down list.

Display	Description
Panoramic	Renders the image as a panoramic projection. This is the default display. Use Mapping Type to specify either a radial or cylindrical projection.
Spherical 3D	Renders the image as a 3-dimensional spherical projection.
Dome Projection	Renders the image as a dome projection.
All-Camera	Six images from each camera are rendered separately, unstitched.
Single-Camera (Raw)	Image data from a selected camera is displayed.
Single-Camera (Rectified)	Image data from a selected camera is displayed and rectified to account for lens distortion. Rectification is the process of generating an image that fits a pin-hole camera model.

2. For the Rotation Angle, from the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, then select from the drop-down list. The rotation angle specifies the orientation of the camera unit's six cameras to the projection. The default orientation is camera 0 projects to the front of the sphere and camera 5 to the upward pole (or top) of the sphere.
3. For the Mapping Type, from the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, then select radial or cylindrical from the drop-down list. The mapping projection dictates how the six individual pictures from each camera are stitched into a panoramic display.

Using the Mouse

You can click and drag inside the image display to control the way images render on the screen. These controls do not affect how images are recorded or how the streams are output to other formats. Not all controls work in all display renderings (panoramic, spherical, dome).

Mouse Control	Description
Left-click, drag	Rotates the yaw view in the direction of the drag. In spherical view, the rotation is sustained at a rate proportional to the speed of the drag. Click again to stop rotation.
Right-click, drag horizontally	Rotates the image pitch. For best results, magnify the image.
Right-click, drag vertically	Rotates the image roll. For best results, magnify the image.
Scroll wheel	Magnifies the image display.

Mouse Control	Description
Right-click, drag horizontally + Shift button	Rotates the yaw view horizontally when image is magnified.
Changing window size	Images stretch to fit the current size of the display window.

9.2.4 Stabilizing Image Display


You can adjust the display of images to compensate for the effect of unwanted movement across frames when the camera records on an unstable surface. Image stabilization can be enabled in both live camera and recorded video modes.

Image stabilization is purely image-based. It does not use external sensors to detect motion. Instead, it compares image patterns across successive frames. Therefore, in order for image stabilization to produce good results, the following requirements should be met:

- Shutter speed must be fast enough to produce clear images without motion blur. Images produced outdoors during daylight hours should not be a concern. In darker places, you may need to set the shutter speed manually.
- There must be patterns across images. If entire images only contain simple textures, such as clear sky or a white wall, the algorithm will have difficulty finding patterns. It is not necessary for all the cameras in the system to have patterns; having patterns on some cameras may suffice. Additionally, patterns should be distant. If they are too close to the camera, there may be errors.
- The frame rate should be fast enough so that the relative movement across frames is not large. If the frame rate is low and the relative movement of images across frames is large, the algorithm may be unable to find patterns. The faster the movement, the faster the frame rate should be.

Although you can enable image stabilization during both live camera and recorded video modes, we recommend using it primarily when outputting stream files. The stabilization algorithm is resource-intensive. When stabilization is enabled during live camera mode, the system may be unable to perform the necessary computations while keeping up with all the incoming frames.

To enable Image Stabilization:

- In LadybugCapPro, select **Enable Stabilization** from the **Settings** menu, or click the Stabilization () icon on the Image Processing toolbar. For more information, see [Working with Images](#).
- Using the Ladybug API, invoke the ladybugEnableImageStabilization function. For more information, refer to the **LadybugProcessStream** example, available from the Windows **Start** menu -> **Point Grey Research** -> **PGR Ladybug** -> **Examples**.

Once enabled, the panoramic, spherical and dome view outputs become stabilized. Additionally, stream files that are output to JPEG, bmp, or avi files are stabilized.

To set Stabilization Parameters:


Depending on your requirements, you can adjust the following image stabilization parameters:

Decay Rate - Specifies the degree of correction across images that the stabilization algorithm uses. The default setting is 0.9. A setting of 1.0 (maximum) instructs the algorithm to apply correction across all positional difference. A decay rate of 1.0 may result in an undesired drift effect, as the camera's original position may shift slowly over a long period of time. Other unwanted effects may result. For example, when capturing images from a car as it turns at intersections, the algorithm will attempt to recover the image pattern produced before the turn. By setting this value a little lower than 1.0, the display slowly re-adjusts, cancelling the drift effect.

Maximum Search Range - The stabilization algorithm searches for patterns within a series of templates in each frame. This value specifies the size, in pixels, of each template. If the frame rate is low or movement is fast, try using a larger value for better results. However, keep in mind that a larger value requires more computation.

To Set stabilization parameters, select **Options** from the **Settings** menu, or click the Options () icon on the Main toolbar.

9.2.5 Adjusting Sphere Size for Stitching

Using the sphere size control () on the [Image Processing toolbar](#), you can minimize parallax by changing the sphere radius to which images are calibrated for stitching panoramas. The following options are available:

Fixed Size

By default, the sphere radius is calibrated at 20 m, which is well-suited for most outdoor scenes. However, if most subjects in the scene are closer than 20 m, you may get better stitching results by choosing a smaller radius. A larger sphere radius of 100 m is also available for scenes that are more distant.

One-Shot Dynamic Stitch

One-shot dynamic stitch calculates an optimal sphere radius for the entire scene. Successive frames are stitched to the same radius until another adjustment is made.

Auto Dynamic Stitch

Auto dynamic stitch calculates optimal stitching distances for different areas of the image, so that these distances vary across the entire image. Stitching distances are re-calculated for each frame. Auto dynamic stitch is best used when distances in the same image coordinates vary greatly across successive frames, and prominent stitching errors cannot be fixed using another stitching calculation technique listed above.



Although you can enable auto dynamic stitch during both live camera and recorded video modes, we recommend using it primarily when outputting stream files. The dynamic stitch algorithm is resource-intensive. When enabled during live camera mode, the system may be unable to perform the necessary computations while keeping up with all the incoming frames.

You can modify the Minimum distance, Maximum distance, and Default distance used for dynamic stitching. From the Settings menu, select Options to open the LadybugCapPro Options dialog.

9.2.6 Adjusting Vertical Tilt

Panoramic images produced by the Ladybug camera system are sensitive to the position of the camera during image capture. Due to the nature of the panoramic mapping, if the camera is at a slight tilt, vertical lines in the scene will appear curved in the image. Since it is not always possible to ensure that the camera is perfectly aligned with the vertical axis in the scene, the Ladybug SDK allows you to correct vertical tilt in images. This is done by selecting **Set Z Axis** in the **Settings** menu in the [LadybugCapPro Main Window](#). You can adjust vertical tilt either during image capture or stream file playback.

The following images show the effect of adjusting for vertical tilt. The image on top shows vertical lines curved. This curvature is corrected in the bottom image.



Figure 9.1: Scene with Tilt Effect



Figure 9.2: Tilt-Adjusted Scene

To adjust Vertical Tilt

When you select **Set Z Axis** from the **Settings** Menu, LadybugCapPro prompts you to Shift-click on four points in the image. The first two clicks specify points on a line in the image that should be adjusted vertically, and the second two clicks specify another line in the image that should be adjusted vertically. By doing this, LadybugCapPro can orient the selected lines with the center of the sphere, and re-adjust the Z (vertical) axis of the radial projection. After the fourth click, all the images being captured or replayed are adjusted vertically.

For example, in the first figure above, you might select the following four points to adjust:



Figure 9.3: Suggested Clicking Points to Specify Vertical Line Adjustment


When selecting vertical line clicking points, keep in mind the following:

- The two points of each line should be as distant as possible.
- The two lines should not be too close to each other, or too close in an exact opposite direction (that is, 180 degrees apart).



Vertical tilt adjustment can also be accomplished by manually adjusting the image roll using the mouse. To adjust image roll, right-click and drag the mouse vertically inside the image. For best results, magnify the image first using the mouse scroll wheel.

To undo Vertical Tilt

To undo any vertical tilt adjustments, click the Rotation Angle control () on the [Image Processing Toolbar](#), and select **Default**.

9.2.7 Adjusting 8-bit Images

Use the Image Processing control () on the [Image Processing Toolbar](#), to make the following adjustments to 8-bit images:

Color Correction

When enabled, overall image hue, intensity and saturation of images can be adjusted. Red, green and blue can also be adjusted individually, which may help to correct white balance issues during image capture.



Color correction may degrade overall image quality.

Sharpening

When enabled, image textures are sharpened. This effect may be most noticeable along texture edges.

Texture Intensity Adjustment

This control is best used when the camera is operating in an [independent sensor control](#) mode, or a stream file is opened that was captured in an independent exposure control mode. When enabled, texture intensities are adjusted to compensate for differences in exposure between individual images. The adjustment process converts integer pixel values to floating point values to achieve higher dynamic range (HDR). For best results, use texture intensity adjustment in combination with one of the following techniques:

- Tone mapping (below)
- Output to .HDR format and process with other software. See [Viewing and Outputting Stream Files](#).

Tone Mapping

When enabled, the dynamic range of images is converted from high (HDR) to low (LDR) to resemble more closely the

dynamic range of the human eye. The following controls are available:

- **Compression**—Gamma-style adjustment re-maps image values. A higher value yields greater compression in bright areas of the image.
- **Local area**—Determines the size of the area around each pixel that is used to calculate new values as part of the overall compression process.

9.2.8 Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images

Use the Image Processing control () on the [Image Processing Toolbar](#), to make the following adjustments to 12- and 16-bit¹ images:

Luminance

- **Black Level**—Adjustments to the image Black Level can be enabled and set.
- **Auto Exposure**—Adjustments to the image auto exposure settings include selecting an ROI (Full Image, Top camera only, Bottom only). As well, manual exposure and gain settings can be adjusted.

Tonal

Gamma:

Sensor manufacturers strive to make the transfer characteristics of sensors inherently linear, which means that as the number of photons hitting the imaging sensor increases, the resulting image intensity increases are linear. Gamma can be used to apply a non-linear mapping of the images produced by the camera. Gamma is applied after analog-to-digital conversion and is available in all pixel formats. Gamma values between 0.5 and 1 result in decreased brightness effect, while values between 1 and 4 produce an increased brightness effect. By default, Gamma is enabled and has a value of 1.25. To obtain a linear response, disable gamma.

Tone Mapping:

When enabled, the dynamic range of images is converted from high (HDR) to low (LDR) to resemble more closely the dynamic range of the human eye. The following controls are available:

- **Compression**—Gamma-style adjustment re-maps image values. A higher value yields greater compression in bright areas of the image.
- **Local area**—Determines the size of the area around each pixel that is used to calculate new values as part of the overall compression process.

Color

White Balance:

The Ladybug5 supports white balance adjustment, which is a system of color correction to account for differing

¹Due to the 12-bit [ADC](#), a 16-bit format is 12-bits padded with zeros.

lighting conditions. Adjusting white balance by modifying the relative gain of R, G and B in an image enables white areas to look "whiter". Taking some subset of the target image and looking at the relative red to green and blue to green response, the objective is to scale the red and blue channels so that the response is 1:1:1.

The user can adjust the red and blue values. Both values specify relative gain, with a value that is half the maximum value being a relative gain of zero.


Miscellaneous

- **Smear Correction**—When enabled, smear is corrected for either unsaturated or full correction. See [Vertical Smear Artifact](#).
- **Noise reduction**—When enabled, noise present in the image is reduced.
- **Sharpening**—When enabled, image textures are sharpened. This effect may be most noticeable along texture edges.
- **False color removal**—When enabled, removes rainbow sparkles in the image caused by small points of light.

9.2.9 Histogram

Displays a histogram of the values represented in the pixels of the current image.

To display a histogram:

1. From the Imaging Processing toolbar click the  button, or, from the Settings menu select Histogram.
2. From Image Information select the channels to view. Red, Green, and Blue are all selected by default.
3. From the Options, select:
 - **Max Percent** allows you adjust the graphical display to view a subset of percentage representation. For example, to view only the first 5% of the representation of values in the graph, enter '5' in the Max Percent field.
 - **All Cameras** specifies that the values are compiled from all six cameras on the Ladybug system. To see values from only one camera at a time, select a camera. (For camera orientation, see [Rendering the Image for Display](#).)

9.3 Saving Images

In both Live Camera and Stream File mode, you can save the current image to panoramic JPEG or panoramic bitmap format, or as six individual color-processed bitmap images, rectified or non-rectified. Images are saved to the My Documents folder.

To save images:

From the **Image** menu, select one of the following:

- **Save Panoramic JPG, Save Panoramic BMP or Save Panoramic HDR.** You can select a pre-defined resolution, or a custom resolution.
 - When **Custom Size** is selected for the first time, enter your desired dimensions. To change your custom dimensions, select **Change Custom Size**.
 - To set the quality of JPEG compression, see 'Main Toolbar' in [LadybugCapPro Main Window](#).
 - Saved Images are rendered only in Panoramic display format, regardless of display setting.
- **Save 6 Color Processed Images BMP or Save 6 Rectified Images BMP.** These options allow you save separate color-processed images from each of the six cameras on the system. If the second option is chosen, images are rectified to correct lens distortion.

9.4 Viewing and Outputting Stream Files

When you load a previously-recorded stream file, you can use the the Stream Toolbar to navigate the frames of the stream file and output the file to a variety of different video or image formats, including JPG, BMP, PNG, TIFF8, TIFF16, HDR, AVI, FLV, WMV and H.264. If outputting to FLV, LadybugCapPro can produce both a panoramic viewer and a spherical viewer with Google Map display.

Use the [Stream Navigation Toolbar](#) to navigate to specific frames for the output.



Use the [Stream Processing Toolbar](#) to set the output type, format and size, and to convert the file for output.




Selecting an Output Type

A drop-down list of formats for outputting the stream. For more information about these formats, see [Projection Types](#).

Output Type	Description
Display only	Displays the frames successively. This option does not create a new file.
Panoramic	Outputs the stream in panoramic view. All output formats are supported. If JPG, BMP, PNG, TIFF or HDR are chosen, separate files are created for each stitched frame. For more information about .flv output, see Outputting Flash Video . To specify a radial or cylindrical mapping projection, select a Mapping Type using the Image Processing Toolbar .
Dome	Outputs the stream in dome view. Output formats are the same as Panoramic , above.
Stream file	Saves the stream file as another .pgr stream file. This option is useful for creating a stream file out of a subset of frames from the original.
6 Processed	Saves each individual image from each of the camera system's six cameras, that comprises the specified output, as separate BMP or TIFF files. Images are not rectified to correct lens distortion.

Output Type	Description
6 Rectified	Similar to '6 Processed,' except each image is rectified to correct lens distortion. Supports JPG, BMP, PNG, TIFF and HDR formats.
6 Cube map	Saves six individual images that can be used to construct a cube covering the entire field of view. Supported formats are JPG, BMP, PNG, TIFF and HDR. Cube mapping is an environment mapping method that is useful for creating video game skyboxes and other computer graphics applications. Cube mapping produces an image that is less distorted than panoramic, cylindrical or dome views. Images are named ladybug_cube_XXXXXX_Y, where XXXXXX is the frame number and Y indicates the cube face, 0-5. Cube face is numbered as follows: 0-front 1-right 2-back 3-left 4-top 5-bottom


To convert Stream Files

- Click the  button to start conversion. The Confirm Settings dialog opens for specifying an output directory for the output file.
- If outputting to AVI format, you can specify a video encoding codec compressor. The compressors that are listed depend on the compression software currently installed on your system. Compressors that have been tested by Point Grey Research and are known to work correctly are shaded a different color. For more information about recommended codecs, see [Knowledge Base Article 348](#).
 - If outputting to FLV format, see [Outputting Flash Video](#) for information about specifying a bit rate and outputting web publishing files.
 - If outputting to WMV format, you can specify a Bit Rate. The bit rate affects the compression quality and file size of the output. Depending on the Output Size specified above, larger sizes generally require larger bit rates for compressing images to an acceptable quality. A higher bit rate results in larger files and longer download time, but higher-quality output. There is no recommended value. You may need to try different values before satisfying your requirements.
- Parallel processing—When selected, instructs LadybugCapPro to create multiple threads to speed up image processing. This consumes additional system resources. For best performance, we recommend the following system configuration:
 - Multi-core CPU
 - 4 GB RAM or more
 - Optimized hard disk drive configuration, such as RAID 0
 - Multiple hard drives or partitions, to write the video stream to a different drive.
- After specifying all applicable settings, click **Convert!** to create the output file(s).

9.4.1 Outputting Flash Video

With LadybugCapPro, you can output a stream file to Flash video (FLV), which is a convenient format for publishing on the web. LadybugCapPro produces all the necessary files for publishing in a single folder, including both a panoramic viewer and a spherical viewer with Google Map display.

To output Flash Video

1. Open a stream file and specify the frames to output using the [Stream Navigation](#) toolbar. Make any necessary image adjustments using the [Image Processing](#) toolbar.
2. On the [Stream Processing](#) toolbar, specify an **Output Size**. In the **Output Type** drop-down list, specify **Panoramic** or **Dome (FLV)**. Then click . The *Confirm Settings* dialog opens.
3. Under **Output Directory**, specify a directory to hold the output file(s).
4. Specify a **Bit Rate**. The bit rate affects the compression quality and file size of the output.

When specifying a bit rate, keep in mind the following:

- Depending on the **Output Size** specified above, larger sizes generally require larger bit rates for compressing images to an acceptable quality.
 - A higher bit rate results in larger files and longer download time, but higher-quality output.
 - There is no recommended value. You may need to try different values before satisfying your requirements.
5. To output web publishing files associated with the FLV file, check **Produce web files**.

When checked, LadybugCapPro produces the following files in addition to the FLV file:

- `panoramic_viewer.html`: Presents the video as a panoramic display.
- `spherical_viewer.html`: Presents the video as a spherical display. To pan and tilt the display, click and drag the mouse, or use the navigational arrows. To zoom in and out, use the +/- controls. This file is not produced if Dome view is specified in Step 2.



Currently, `spherical_viewer.html` is unable to play videos whose **Output Size** width or height is greater than 2800.

- `spherical_viewer_map.html`: This file is produced only if positional data was recorded with the stream file. For more information, see [Working with GPS Data](#). This file is identical to `spherical_viewer.html`, but also includes a synchronized Google Map display. To synchronize the map with the video, click and drag on the video, or use the viewer controls. To synchronize the video with the map, double-click on the map.



When `spherical_viewer_map.html` is installed on a local file system, security restrictions native to the Flash viewer may prevent you from viewing the Google Map associated with the file. To address this issue, you may need to upload the web files to a web server, then access `spherical_viewer_map.html` through an HTTP request. You may also need to obtain a unique Google Maps API key and embed it in `spherical_viewer_map.html`. To obtain a Google Maps API key, visit <http://code.google.com/apis/maps/signup.html>.

- `frame_info.xml`: Produced only if positional data was recorded with the stream file, and is used for integrating the Google Map display with the viewer.
 - `pgrflv.swf`: The Flash Player panoramic viewer.
 - `sphericalViewer.swf`: The Flash Player spherical viewer.
 - `SkinOverPlaySeekStop.swf`: The Flash Player viewer skin.
 - `AC_RunActiveContent.js`: A javascript file to check the installation of Flash Player.
6. If **Produce web files** is checked, specify a subfolder, within the specified **Output Directory**, in which to output the web publishing files.
7. Click **Convert!**

10 Troubleshooting

10.1 Support

Point Grey Research endeavors to provide the highest level of technical support possible to our customers. Most support resources can be accessed through the Point Grey [Product Support](#) page.

Creating a Customer Login Account

The first step in accessing our technical support resources is to obtain a Customer Login Account. This requires a valid name and e-mail address. To apply for a Customer Login Account go to the [Product Downloads](#) page.

Knowledge Base

Our [Knowledge Base](#) contains answers to some of the most common support questions. It is constantly updated, expanded, and refined to ensure that our customers have access to the latest information.

Product Downloads

Customers with a Customer Login Account can access the latest software and firmware for their cameras from our [Product Downloads](#) page. We encourage our customers to keep their software and firmware up-to-date by downloading and installing the latest versions.

Contacting Technical Support

Before contacting Technical Support, have you:

1. Read the product documentation and user manual?
2. Searched the Knowledge Base?
3. Downloaded and installed the latest version of software and/or firmware?

If you have done all the above and still can't find an answer to your question, [contact our Technical Support team](#).

10.2 Status Indicator LED

LED Status	Description
Off	Not receiving power
Steady green	Receiving power
Flashing yellow/Steady yellow	Initializing FPGA
Steady yellow-green	Insufficient power
Steady bright green	Acquiring and transmitting images
Flashing bright, then brighter green	Accessing camera registers (no image acquisition)
Flashing green and red	Updating firmware
Flashing red	Temporary problem
Steady red	Serious problem

10.3 Blemish Pixel Artifacts

Cosmic radiation may cause random pixels to generate a permanently high charge, resulting in a permanently lit, or 'glowing,' appearance. Point Grey tests for and programs white blemish pixel correction into the camera firmware.

In very rare cases, one or more pixels in the sensor array may stop responding and appear black (dead) or white (hot/stuck).

10.3.1 Pixel Defect Correction

Point Grey tests for blemish pixels on each camera. The mechanism to correct blemish pixels is hard-coded into the camera firmware. Pixel correction is on by default. The correction algorithm involves applying the average color or grayscale values of neighboring pixels to the blemish pixel.

Related Knowledge Base Articles

Title	Article
How Point Grey tests for white blemish pixels	Knowledge Base Article 314

10.4 Vertical Smear Artifact

When a strong light source is shone on the camera, a faint bright line may be seen extending vertically through an image from a light-saturated spot. Vertical smear is a byproduct of the interline transfer system that extracts data from the CCD.

Smear is caused by scattered photons leaking into the shielded vertical shift register. When the pixel cells are full, some charges may spill out in to the vertical shift register. As the charge shifts in/out of the light sensitive sensor area and travels down the vertical shift register, it picks up the extra photons and causes a bright line in the image.

Smear above the bright spot is collected during read out while smear below the bright spot is collected during read in.

10.4.1 Smear Reduction

Smear may be minimized using one or more of the following techniques:

- Reduce the bright light source.
- Increase the shutter time/lower the frame rate. This increases the amount of time light is collected in the photosensors relative to the time in the vertical transfer register.
- Turn the light source off before and after exposure by using a mechanical or LCD shutter.
- Use a pulsed or flashed light source. A pulsed light of 1/10,000 duration is sufficient in most cases to allow an extremely short 100 ns exposure without smear.
- Enable smear correction during post processing. See [Adjusting 12- and 16-bit Images](#).

Appendix A: Ladybug API Examples

The following examples are included in the Ladybug SDK.

Examples are accessible from:

Start Menu -->All Programs -->Point Grey Research --> PGR Ladybug --> Examples

With the exception of ladybugCSharpEx and ladybugProcessStream_CSharp, all examples are Visual C++.

Example	Description
ladybug3dViewer	Shows how to display a spherical view in which the user can pan and tilt the image inside the sphere.
ladybugAdvancedRenderEx	Shows how to draw a Ladybug 3D spherical image in conjunction with other 3D objects.
ladybugCaptureHDRImage	Demonstrates how to capture a series of images closely spaced in time suitable for input into a high dynamic range image creation system.
ladybugCSharpEx	Shows how to create a C# program that uses the Ladybug API.
ladybugEnvironmentalSensors	Shows how to access the information from the environmental sensors.
ladybugEnvMap	Shows how to apply cube mapping on spherical images to construct a skybox.
ladybugOGLOTextureEx	Shows how to access Ladybug images directly on the graphics card as an OpenGL texture map.
ladybugOutput3DMesh	Demonstrates how to produce a 3D mesh out of calibration data from the connected camera.
ladybugPanoramic	Shows how to use a document-view application to grab Ladybug images and display them in a window.
ladybugPanoStitchExample	Shows how to extract an image set from a Ladybug camera, stitch it together and write the final stitched image to disk.
ladybugPostProcessing	Shows how to perform post processing on 12- or 16-bit images.
ladybugProcessStream	Shows how to process all, or part, of a stream file. Also available as a C# example: ladybugProcessStream_CSharp.
ladybugProcessStreamParallel	Shows how to process a Ladybug image stream using multiple Ladybug context parallel processing.
ladybugSimpleGPS	Shows how to use a GPS device in conjunction with a Ladybug camera to integrate GPS data with Ladybug images.
ladybugSimpleGrab	Illustrates the basics of acquiring an image from a Ladybug camera.
ladybugSimpleGrabDisplay	Shows how to use the OpenGL Utility Toolkit (GLUT) to grab Ladybug images and display them in a simple window.
ladybugSimpleRecording	Shows how to record Ladybug images to .pgr stream files. When used in conjunction with a GPS device, also shows how to record images when the GPS location changes after a specified distance.

Example	Description
ladybugStitchFrom3DMesh	Shows how to stitch six raw images without using the Ladybug SDK.
ladybugStreamCopy	Copies images from a Ladybug source stream to a destination stream.
ladybugTranslate2dTo3d	Shows how to translate a 2D point in the raw image to a 3D point.
ladybugTriggerEx	Shows how to control trigger and strobe.

A.1 ladybug3dViewer

This example shows how to display a spherical view in which the user can pan and tilt the image inside the sphere. The program reads one rectangular panoramic image (.bmp or .ppm) and maps it onto the sphere using OpenGL functions.

This program does not handle video or .pgr format stream files, and does not require the Ladybug SDK API.

A.2 ladybugAdvancedRenderEx

This example shows how to draw a Ladybug 3D spherical image in conjunction with other 3D objects. To render 3D objects together with a Ladybug 3D spherical image, `ladybugDisplayImage()` must be called prior to drawing any objects. The size and position of the objects must be inside the Ladybug spherical image. Otherwise, the objects will not be seen. Additionally, the OpenGL depth test must be enabled.

This example must be run with glut32.dll.

This example must open the following .ppm texture files:



- *TextureCam0.ppm*
- *TextureCam1.ppm*
- *TextureCam2.ppm*
- *TextureCam3.ppm*
- *TextureCam4.ppm*
- *TextureCam5.ppm*

A.3 ladybugCaptureHDRImage

This example code demonstrates how to capture a series of images closely spaced in time suitable for input into a high dynamic range image creation system.

The `main()` function initializes the camera and calls the other subroutines.

The `setupHDRRegisters()` subroutine sets all of the registers necessary to put the camera into 'HDR Mode'.

`captureImages()` captures images directly from a Ladybug camera.

`processImages()` computes the panoramic images.

The Ladybug has a bank of four gain and shutter registers in addition to its standard set. When put into 'HDR Mode', the camera cycles through the settings contained in these registers on an image by image basis. This allows users to

capture a set of four images with widely varying exposure settings. The four images can be captured within 4/30 of a second if the data format is set to `LADYBUG_DATAFORMAT_COLOR_SEP_SEQUENTIAL_JPEG`.

The shutter and gain values are read from an INI file defined by `INI_FILE_NAME`. If you find the shutter and gain settings are not appropriate, change the data in this file.

Once these images have been captured, the program processes the images and outputs a configuration file containing exposure data suitable for input into a program such as 'pfstools' and 'pfscalibration'.

Having captured the images, the user should then run the 'pfsinhdrngen' program in the image directory with a command line similar to the following:

```
pfsinhdrngen HDRDescription.hdrngen | pfshdr_calibrate -v | pfsout  
output.hdr
```

Where 'HDRDescription.hdrngen' is the name of the configuration file output by this program and 'output.hdr' is the name of the output image.

Then the output file can be viewed using pfsview (or pfsv).

```
pfsv output.hdr
```

You can also make an HDR image out of four output images using Adobe Photoshop CS3, easyHDR, etc. In this case, you don't need to provide additional exposure data.

'pfstools' is available at <http://pfstools.sourceforge.net/>

'pfscalibration' is available at: <http://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de/resources/hdr/calibration/pfs.html>

A.4 ladybugCSharpEx

This example shows how to create a C# program that uses the Ladybug API. The program can display stitched panoramic images either from the camera or from a stream file. If a stream file contains GPS information, it is also displayed. The program requires LadybugAPI.cs and LadybugAPI_GPS.cs, which define the interface of the Ladybug API for the C# language.

A.5 ladybugEnvironmentalSensors

This example shows how to use the Ladybug API to obtain data from the environmental sensors on the Ladybug5. In addition to reading the raw information from the camera, the example shows how to calculate the camera's heading from the raw compass values.

A.6 ladybugEnvMap

This example illustrates how to apply cube mapping on Ladybug's spherical images to construct a skybox. In computer graphics, cube mapping is a type of environment mapping used to simulate surfaces that reflect the scene at a distant location.

Here, Ladybug images are used as the environment and are updated in real time. For each scene, six surfaces of a cube are rendered. This is done by rendering Ladybug's spherical view 6 times, setting the field of view to 90 degrees and positioning the virtual camera to specific surface directions. These rendering results are then used as textures for

the cube mapping. The overall scene, which is comprised of the reflective objects, is then rendered. All calculations required to construct the cube map are handled inside the OpenGL library.

This example must be run with freeglut.dll present.



This example must be run with freeglut32.dll present.

A.7 ladybugOGLTextureEx

This example shows how to access Ladybug images directly on the graphics card as an OpenGL texture map. The rendered Ladybug image is accessed by its texture ID and can be mapped to any geometric object as desired by using OpenGL functions.

Right click the mouse in the client area to display a menu and select various Ladybug image types.



This example must be run with glut32.dll.

A.8 ladybugOutput3DMesh

This example demonstrates how to produce a 3D mesh out of calibration data from the connected camera. The output of this program can be directly used for the input of the program [ladybugStitchFrom3DMesh](#). You can save the output of this program to a file by using redirection. From the command prompt, navigate (cd) to the Ladybug SDK's "bin" directory and type ladybugoutput3dmesh >mymesh.txt. You will then have the output in the file "mymesh.txt".

A.9 ladybugPanoramic

This example shows how to use a document-view application to grab Ladybug images and display them in a window.

The CLadybugPanoramicDoc class is used to initialize and start a Ladybug camera. It creates a thread for grabbing and processing images.

The CLadybugPanoramicView class is used to display Ladybug images. It initializes the window for OpenGL display. To display a ladybug image, CLadybugPanoramicView::OnDraw() calls the image-drawing API functions.

A.10 ladybugPanoStitchExample

This example shows how to extract an image set from a Ladybug camera, stitch it together and write the final stitched image to disk.

Since Ladybug library version 1.3.alpha.01, this example is modified to use ladybugRenderOffScreenImage(), which is hardware accelerated, to render the stitched images.

Typing `ladybugPanoStitchExample /?` (or `? -?`) at the command prompt prints the usage information of this application.

A.11 ladybugPostProcessing

This example shows how to use the post processing pipeline introduced in the Ladybug 1.7 API together with a 12- or 16-bit image from the Ladybug5 to produce a processed image. The code shows how to modify the `LadybugAdjustmentParameters` structure to define the type of post processing to perform.

A.12 ladybugProcessStream

This example shows how to process all, or part, of a stream file. The program processes each frame and outputs an image file sequentially. If the stream file contains GPS information, the program outputs the information to a separate text file. By editing this source code, users can change image size, image type, output file format, color processing algorithm, and blending width. Users can also change options for falloff correction, software rendering and stabilization.



This example is also available in C# as `ladybugProcessStream_CSharp`.

A.13 ladybugProcessStreamParallel

This example shows how to process a Ladybug image stream using multiple Ladybug context parallel processing.

This program creates a stream reading thread and one or more image processing threads. The stream reading thread reads images from a stream and puts them into a buffer queue. Each processing thread gets images from the buffer queue and processes the images concurrently with other threads.

The number of processing threads you can create depends on many factors such as image resolution, color processing method, the size of the rendered image and the size of the graphics card memory.

If the required resources are beyond the ability of the graphics card, the program may report a run-time error. For example, one full-resolution frame from a Ladybug3 is 1616 x 1232. Rendering a 4096 x 2048 off-screen image using the `LADYBUG_HQLINEAR` color processing method requires at least 110 MB of GPU memory. In this case, with 512 MB of graphics card memory, you may run three threads. This allows for image processing plus additional GPU memory allocations that are necessary, such as image display. More than three threads may cause an error.

The overall processing speed depends on several factors: disk I/O speed, number of CPUs and performance of the graphics card. For fast stream processing, we recommend the following:

- Multi-core processor machine
- Graphics card with 512 Mbytes memory or more
- Fast hard disk drive configuration, such as RAID0
- Reading the stream from one drive and writing the rendered images to another drive.

This example reads the processing parameter options from the command line. Use `-?` or `-h` to display the usage help.

A.14 ladybugSimpleGPS

This example shows how to use a GPS device in conjunction with a Ladybug camera to integrate GPS data with Ladybug images.

Before running this example, you need to know the COM port to which the GPS device is mapped, even if the device uses a USB interface. Right click on "My Computer" from the Windows Start menu. Under the "Hardware" tab, click "Device Manager." Expand the "Ports (COM & LPT)" node and note the COM port to which the GPS device is mapped.

A.15 ladybugSimpleGrab

This example illustrates the basics of acquiring an image from a Ladybug camera. The program performs the following tasks:

1. Creates a context.
2. Initializes a camera.
3. Starts the transmission of images.
4. Grabs an image.
5. Processes the grabbed image using a color processing algorithm.
6. Saves the 6 raw images as BMP files.
7. Destroys the context.

A.16 ladybugSimpleGrabDisplay

This example shows how to use OpenGL Utility Toolkit (GLUT) to grab Ladybug images and display them in a simple window. This example starts the first Ladybug camera on the bus. The camera is started in JPEG mode and the images are processed with the LADYBUG_DOWNSAMPLE4 color processing method.

Right click the mouse in the client area to display a menu and select various Ladybug image types.



This example must be run with glut32.dll.

A.17 ladybugSimpleRecording

This example shows how to record Ladybug images to .pgr stream files. The example starts the first Ladybug camera on the bus with the parameters in the .ini file defined by INI_FILENAME.

This example displays the grabbed images only when the grabbing function returns LADYBUG_TIMEOUT. This means that saving images is the highest priority.

Right click the mouse in the client area to popup a menu and select various options, or use the following hot keys:

- 'r' or 'R' - start recording, press again to stop recording.
- 'p' or 'P' - display panoramic image.
- 'a' or 'A' - display all-camera image.

- 'd' or 'D' - display dome view image.
- 'Esc', 'q' or 'Q' - exit the program.

When used in conjunction with a GPS device, this example also shows how to record images when the GPS location changes after a specified distance, in meters. The distance parameter is specified in the .ini file. The accuracy of the result depends on the GPS device and the GPS data update rate.



This example must be run with freeglut.dll and Ladybug SDK v. 1.3.0.2 or later.

A.18 ladybugStitchFrom3DMesh

This example shows how to stitch six raw images without using the Ladybug SDK. Note that users still need the 3D mesh data produced by the program [ladybugOutput3DMesh](#), which requires the Ladybug SDK.

This program is useful for users who want to stitch images in an environment where the Ladybug SDK is not supported.

A.19 ladybugStreamCopy

This program copies images from a Ladybug source stream to a destination stream. If a calibration file is specified, this program writes this calibration file to the destination file instead of using the calibration file in the source stream.

The last two arguments specify how many images to copy. If they are not specified, all the images are copied.

A.20 ladybugTranslate2dTo3d

This example shows how to use the Ladybug API to translate a 2D point in the raw image to a 3D point in the Ladybug camera coordinate space and vice versa. It also shows how to use `ladybugGet3dMap()` provided by the Ladybug API to perform the translation.

This example is a companion to TAN2012009 *Geometric Vision using Ladybug Cameras* found in [Knowledge Base Article 399](#).

A.21 ladybugTriggerEx

This example shows how to use the Ladybug API to control the trigger and strobe functionality of the camera. The example sets the camera into trigger mode 0 (Standard) and then uses software triggering to trigger when an image is captured.

Appendix B: Stream File Format

B.1 File Signature

Every Ladybug stream file starts with a signature. This signature uniquely identifies the file as a Ladybug stream file.

Offset	Name	Bytes	Type	Value	Description
0x0000	Signature	16	Character string	PGRLADYBUGSTREAM	Ladybug Stream file identifier

B.2 Stream Header Structure

The stream header structure begins immediately after the file header at offset 16 from the beginning of the file. It contains the information defined by `LadybugStreamHeadInfo` in `ladybug.h`. The byte order of this data block is little endian.

Offset	Name	Bytes	Type	Description
0x0000	Ladybug stream version no.	4	unsigned int	Stream version number
0x0004	Frame rate	4	unsigned int	The frames recorded per second
0x0008	Base serial No.	4	unsigned int	Ladybug base unit serial number
0x000C	Head serial No.	4	unsigned int	Ladybug head unit serial number
0x0010	Reserved	104	unsigned int	Reserved space
0x0078	Data format	4	unsigned int	Image data format defined in ladybug.h
0x007C	Resolution	4	unsigned int	Image resolution defined in ladybug.h
0x0080	Stippled format	4	unsigned int	Image Bayer pattern
0x0084	Configuration data size	4	unsigned int	Number of bytes of the configuration data
0x0088	N - Number of images	4	unsigned int	Number of images in this stream file
0x008C	M- Number of index	4	unsigned int	Number of entries used in the index table
0x0090	K - Increment	4	unsigned int	Interval value for Indexing the images
0x0094	Stream data offset	4	unsigned int	Offset of the first image data

Offset	Name	Bytes	Type	Description
0x0098	GPS summary data offset	4	unsigned int	Offset of GPS summary data block
0x009C	GPS summary data size	4	unsigned int	Size of GPS summary data block
0x00A0	Frame header size	4	unsigned int	Size of internal frame header.
0x00A4	Humidity availability	4	bool	Whether humidity sensor is available
0x00A8	Humidity minimum	4	unsigned int	Minimum value for sensor
0x00AC	Humidity maximum	4	unsigned int	Maximum value for sensor
0x00B0	Air pressure availability	4	bool	Whether air pressure sensor is available
0x00B4	Air pressure minimum	4	unsigned int	Minimum value for sensor
0x00B8	Air pressure maximum	4	unsigned int	Maximum value for sensor
0x00BC	Compass availability	4	bool	Whether compass sensor is available
0x00C0	Compass minimum	4	unsigned int	Minimum value for sensor
0x00C4	Compass maximum	4	unsigned int	Maximum value for sensor
0x00C8	Accelerometer availability	4	bool	Whether accelerometer sensor is available
0x00CC	Accelerometer minimum	4	unsigned int	Minimum value for sensor
0x00D0	Accelerometer maximum	4	unsigned int	Maximum value for sensor
0x00D4	Gyroscope availability	4	bool	Whether gyroscope sensor is available
0x00D8	Gyroscope minimum	4	unsigned int	Minimum value for sensor
0x00DC	Gyroscope maximum	4	unsigned int	Maximum value for sensor
0x00E0	Frame rate	4	float	Actual frame rate, represented as a floating point value.
0x00E4	Reserved space	780	unsigned int	Reserved space
...	

Offset	Name	Bytes	Type	Description
Image index [M-1]	4	unsigned int	Offset of image (M-1)*K	
...	
0x0BE4	Image index [2]	4	unsigned int	Offset of image 2*K
0x0BE8	Image index [1]	4	unsigned int	Offset of image K
0x0BEC	Image index [0]	4	unsigned int	Offset of image 0.

The image index table between 0x03F0 and 0x0BF0 is used to locate the keyframes of the stream. Using this table can speed up image searching. The value of K (offset 0x0090) means that the index table contains the offset values for every Kth image. The offset values are relative to the beginning of the stream file. For example, if K = 50, the value of 'Image index [5]' is the offset of image 250 (K * 5 = 250). It is the location of image 250 relative to the first byte of the stream file.

B.3 Configuration Data

The configuration data begins immediately after stream header structure. The data is in ASCII text format. It is extracted from the Ladybug camera head for image calibration. The size of this data block is the value of 'Configuration Data Size' as defined in the Stream Header Structure.

B.4 Frame Header

Since v7 of the frame header, there is a frame header at the start of each image. The size of the frame header can be found in the stream header. Frame headers are present regardless of whether the image data format is JPEG or uncompressed. The information in the frame header can be found in the `LadybugImageHeader` structure.

B.5 JPEG Compressed Image Data Structure

If the image format specified for recording is JPEG, each image for the six camera sensors is JPEG compressed in four separate Bayer channels. Therefore, a frame of ladybug image has 24 JPEG data blocks.

The first frame of JPEG images begins immediately after the configuration data. The second frame follows the first frame, the third frame follows the second, and so on. The offset value of the first JPEG image, relative to the beginning of the file, is the value of `Stream Data Offset` as defined in the Stream Header Structure.

The general layout of a JPEG compressed `LadybugImage` is as follows:

Image Header (0x000 – 0x400)
Cam 0 Bayer 0
Cam 0 Bayer 1
Cam 0 Bayer 2

Cam 0 Bayer 3
Cam 1 Bayer 0
...
Cam 4 Bayer 3
Cam 5 Bayer 0
Cam 5 Bayer 1
Cam 5 Bayer 2
Cam 5 Bayer 3
GPS NMEA data

For each compressed Ladybug image, the GPS NMEA sentences are written at the end of each JPEG image data and are located at the offset value of `GPS_Offset`. If there is no GPS data, `GPS_Offset` and `GPS_Size` are set to zero.

The byte order of this data block is big endian.

Offset	Name	Value	Bytes	Type	Description
0x0000	Timestamp		4	unsigned int	The cycle time seconds, cycle time count and cycle offset of this image
0x0004	Reserved		4	N/A	N/A
0x0008	Data size		4	unsigned int	The total data size of the this frame, including the padding block
0x000C	Reserved		4	N/A	Filled with 0s
0x0010	Fingerprint	0xCAFEBAFE	4	Character	Unique fingerprint
0x0014	Version Number		4	unsigned int	Version number
0x0018	Time (seconds)		4	unsigned int	Timestamp, in seconds (UNIX time epoch)
0x001C	Time (microseconds)		4	unsigned int	Microsecond fraction of above second
0x0020	Sequence ID		4	unsigned int	Image sequence number
0x0024	Refresh Rate		4	unsigned int	Horizontal refresh rate
0x0028	Gain[6]		24	unsigned int	Gain values for each camera
0x0040	White balance		4	unsigned int	White balance
0x0044	Bayer gain		4	unsigned int	Same as register 0x1044

Offset	Name	Value	Bytes	Type	Description
0x0048	Bayer map		4	unsigned int	Same as register 0x1040
0x004C	Brightness		4	unsigned int	Brightness
0x0050	Gamma		4	unsigned int	Gamma
0x0054	Head Serial Number		4	unsigned int	Serial number of Ladybug Head
0x0058	Shutter[6]		24	unsigned int	Shutter values for each camera
0x0070	Free space		24	N/A	Reserved space
0x0088	Free space		632	N/A	Random data
0x0300	Free space		56	N/A	Filled with 0s
0x0338	GPS data offset	GPS_Offset	4	unsigned int	The offset of GPS data
0x033C	GPS data size	GPS_Size	4	unsigned int	The size of GPS data
0x0340	JPEG data offset	Offset_0_0	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 0
	JPEG data size	Size_0_0	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 0
	JPEG data offset	Offset_0_1	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 1
	JPEG data size	Size_0_1	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 1
	JPEG data offset	Offset_0_2	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 2
	JPEG data size	Size_0_2	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 2
	JPEG data offset	Offset_0_3	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 3
	JPEG data size	Size_0_3	4	unsigned int	Cam 0, Bayer Channel 3
	JPEG data offset	Offset_1_0	4	unsigned int	Cam 1, Bayer Channel 0
	JPEG data size	Size_1_0	4	unsigned int	Cam 1, Bayer Channel 0
...
	JPEG data offset	Offset_5_2	4	unsigned int	Cam 5, Bayer Channel 2
	JPEG data size	Size_5_2	4	unsigned int	Cam 5, Bayer Channel 2

Offset	Name	Value	Bytes	Type	Description
	JPEG data offset	Offset_5_3	4	unsigned int	Cam 5, Bayer Channel 3
	JPEG data size	Size_5_3	4	unsigned int	Cam 5, Bayer Channel 3
0x0400	JPEG data		...	Binary	...
Offset_ i_j	JPEG data		Size_i_ j	Binary	Beginning from offset 0x0400 are the 24 JPEG data blocks for Camera <i>i</i> , Bayer Channel <i>j</i> , where <i>i</i> = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and <i>j</i> = 0, 1, 2, 3.
...
GPS_ Offset	GPS NMEA data		GPS_ Size	ASCII text	GPS NMEA sentences

The four bytes of timestamp data at offset 0x0000 are the cycle time seconds, cycle time count and cycle offset when the image is captured.

Description	Cycle Time (seconds)	Cycle Time (ms)	Cycle Offset
Range	0-127	0-7999	0-3071
Bits	0-6	7-19	20-31

For more information about Ladybug time stamp, see the definition of `LadybugTimestamp` struct in `ladybug.h`.

The data between offset 0x0010 and 0x008F contains the information of the `LadybugImageInfo` structure defined in `ladybug.h`.

B.6 Uncompressed Image Data Structure

If the image format is uncompressed, the image data is the raw binary data from the camera. The first frame begins immediately after the configuration data. The number of bytes for each of the six images is determined by image resolution and data format as defined in the Stream Header Structure.

The Bayer pattern of the image is defined by `Stippled Format` as defined in the Stream Header Structure.

For uncompressed Ladybug images, the GPS NMEA sentences are written to the last 1024 bytes of the image data of camera 5. This means that the last 1024 bytes of image data will be overwritten by GPS data if the GPS device is available.

The following table lists the data structure of each uncompressed image, assuming a resolution of `LADYBUG_RESOLUTION_1632x1232`.

Offset	Name	Type	Description
0x00000000	Image Data	Binary	Cam-0, Bayer pattern image data
0x001EAE00	Image Data	Binary	Cam-1, Bayer pattern image data
0x003D5C00	Image Data	Binary	Cam-2, Bayer pattern image data
0x005C0A00	Image Data	Binary	Cam-3, Bayer pattern image data
0x007AB800	Image Data	Binary	Cam-4, Bayer pattern image data
0x00996600	Image Data	Binary	Cam-5, Bayer pattern image data
0x00B81400	GPS NMEA data	ASCII text	1024 bytes space for GPS NMEA sentences

B.7 GPS Summary Data Format

The GPS summary data begins immediately after the image data discussed in JPEG Compressed or Uncompressed Image. The offset value relative to the beginning of the file is the value of `GPS Summary Data Offset` as defined in the Stream Header Structure. The data structure of the GPS summary data is defined by `GPS3DPoint` in `ladybugstream.h`. No other groups are defined in version 1.2 Beta 19 or earlier. The byte order of this data block is big endian.

Offset	Name	Value	Bytes	Type	Description
0x0000	Data identifier	GPSSUMMARY_00001	16	Characters	First group identifier
0x0010	Reserved	Filled with 0's	16	N/A	Reserved space
0x0020	Item data size		4	unsigned int	Size of each data item
0x0024	Number of Items		4	unsigned int	The number items
0x0028	Image No.		4	unsigned int	Associated image number
0x002C	Longitude		8	double	Longitude of item 0
0x0034	Latitude		8	double	Latitude of item 0
0x003C	Altitude		8	double	Altitude of item 0
0x0044	Image No.		4	unsigned int	Associated image number
0x0048	Longitude		8	double	Longitude of item 1
0x0050	Latitude		8	double	Latitude of item 1
0x0058	Altitude		8	double	Altitude of item 1

	Image No.		4	unsigned int	Associated image number
	Longitude		8	double	Longitude of item N-1
	Latitude		8	double	Latitude of item N-1
	Altitude		8	double	Altitude of item N-1

Appendix C: Calibration and Coordinate System

Effective warping and stitching of the images produced by the camera system's six sensors is achieved through accurate calibration of the physical location and orientation of the sensors and the distortion model of the lens. This section discusses the representation used to describe the physical orientation of all of the sensors with respect to one another. The Ladybug software manages the camera coordinate system by breaking it down into seven right-handed coordinate frames of one of two types: six independent image sensor coordinate frames and a camera coordinate frame.

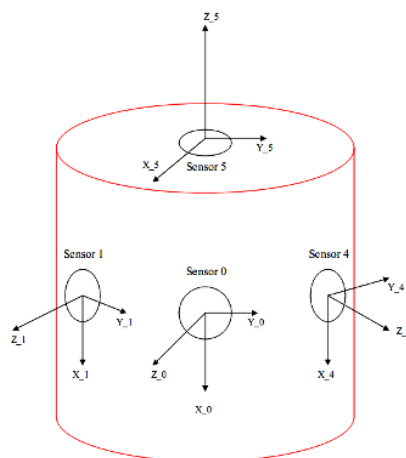
C.1 Coordinate Systems on Ladybug Cameras

Each lens has its own right-handed 3D coordinate system. As well there is a Ladybug 3D Coordinate system that is associated with the camera as a whole. This makes a total of seven 3D coordinate systems on every Ladybug camera. As well, there is a 2D pixel-grid coordinate system for each sensor.

C.1.1 Lens 3D coordinate system

Each of the six lenses has its own 3D coordinate system.

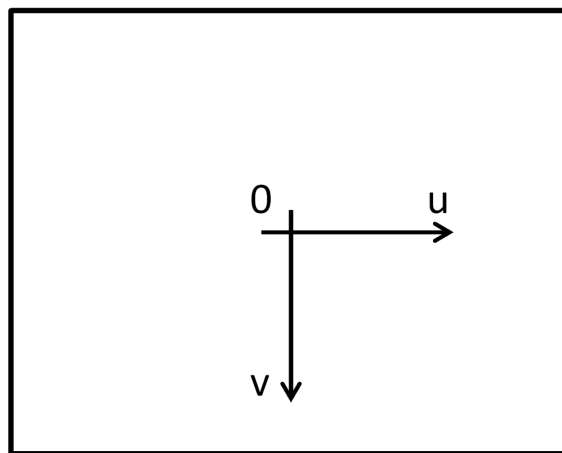
- Origin is the optical center of the lens
- Z-axis points out of the sensor towards the scene – i.e. it is the optical axis
- The X- and Y-axes are relative to the pixel grid of the image sensor associated with that lens
 - The Y-axis points along the image columns. The positive Y direction is in the direction of ascending row number. This points down from the point of view of a normally oriented image
 - The X-axis points along the image rows. The positive X direction is in the direction of ascending column number. This points to the right in a normally oriented image
- This coordinate system is used to represent 3D space from the point-of-view of each lens/sensor pair. Its units are meters, not pixels.



C.1.2 Sensor 2D coordinate system

Each sensor has its own 2D coordinate system.

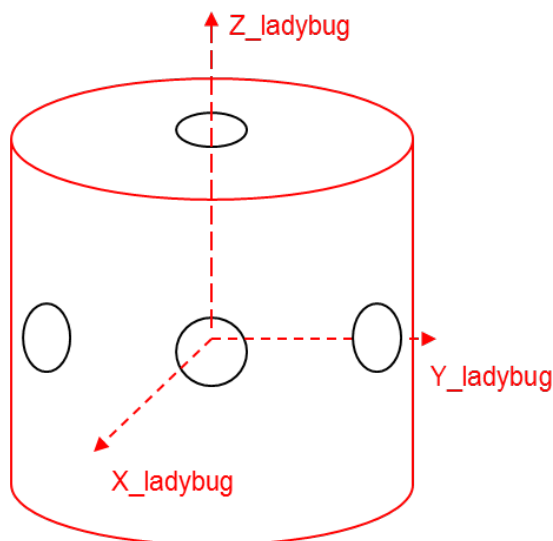
- The u- and v-axes are the image based 2D image coordinate system for the rectified image space and are measured in pixels
- The origin of the coordinate system is at the intersection of the optical axis and the rectified image plane and differs for each sensor
- The u-axis points along the rows of the image sensor in the direction of ascending column number (i.e. to the right)
- The v-axis points along the columns in the direction of ascending row number (i.e. down).



C.1.3 Ladybug Camera Coordinate System

The Ladybug Camera coordinate system is centered within the Ladybug case and is determined by the position of the 6 lens coordinate systems.

- Origin is the center of the five horizontal camera origins
- Z-axis is parallel to the optical axis of the top lens (lens 5) (*)
- X-axis is parallel to the optical axis of lens 0 (*)
- Y-axis is consistent with a right handed coordinate system based on the X- and Z-axes
- There may be some variations from LD2 – LD3 – LD5
- (*) Note – due to assembly tolerances the optical axes of lens 5 and lens 0 will typically not be perfectly perpendicular. The X-axis of the Ladybug Camera coordinate system is adjusted slightly to ensure that they are perpendicular.



For more detailed information on the representation used to describe the physical orientation of all of the sensors with respect to one another and provides instructions for transforming 2D local points to 3D global points and vice versa, see [Knowledge Base Article 399](#).

C.2 Projection Types

Once a [three-dimensional spherical coordinate system](#) is obtained, the image on the sphere can be projected to a mapping based on different projection methods. The projected image is usually two-dimensional so that it can easily be displayed on a monitor or printed on paper. Each projection type has its own benefits and shortcomings.

Radial (Equirectangular) Projection

This is one of the most popular projections, and the output image is easy to use. In LadybugCapPro, you can output video to this projection by using the [Stream Processing Toolbar](#) and selecting Output Type “Panoramic.” Then, using the [Image Processing Toolbar](#), specify Mapping Type “Radial.”

The projected image has two coordinates – theta for horizontal, and phi for vertical. The projection equation from the spherical coordinate system is as follows:

$$R = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$$

$$\theta = \text{ATAN2}(Y, X)$$

$$\phi = \text{ACOS}\left(\frac{Z}{R}\right)$$

Where (X, Y, Z) are points on the spherical coordinate system, and ATAN2 and ACOS are functions provided by the standard C library.

(Θ , Φ) are coordinates of the projected image.

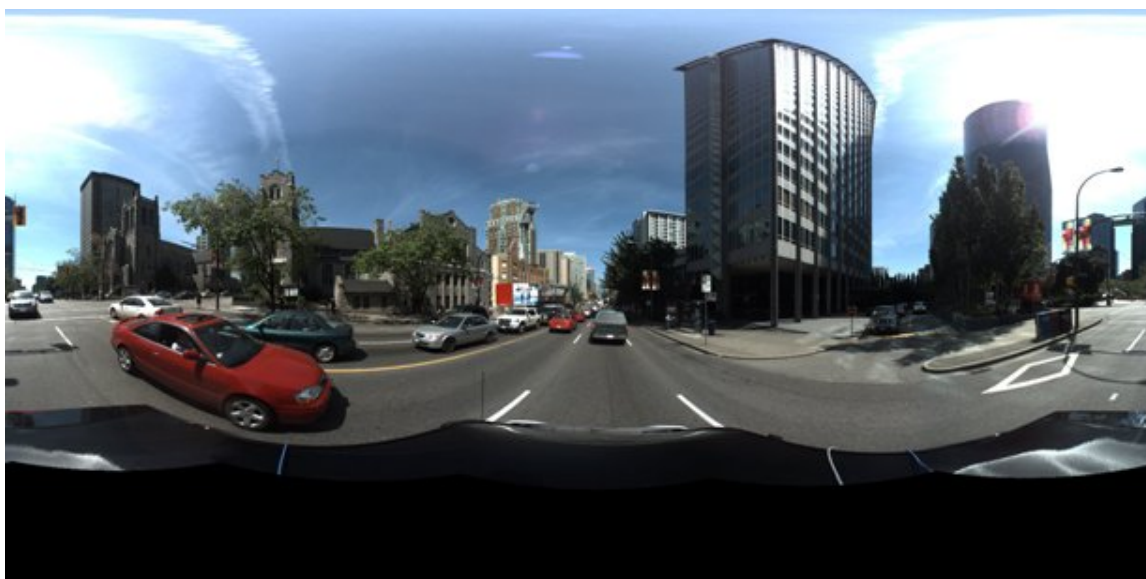
The range of values of Θ is $-\pi$ to π .

The range of values of Φ is 0 to π .

In order to convert to the actual pixel position on the radial projection image, appropriate scaling is needed based on these value ranges.

(Θ, Φ) can be obtained by referring to the `fTheta` and `fPhi` members of the `LadybugPoint3d` struct, which is obtained by invoking `ladybugGet3dMap()`.

The benefit of this projection is that all the points in the original spherical coordinate system can be mapped on a single image. Additionally, the correspondence of the original point and the projected point is simple, in that the horizontal axis corresponds to longitude and the vertical axis corresponds to latitude of a globe. However, this projection suffers from the disadvantage of pixels becoming increasingly stretched out as one approaches the poles of the sphere (top and bottom of the projected image).



Example radial projection image

Cylindrical Projection

This projection is similar to the radial projection, but with a limited field of view, as areas close to the poles are not able to be rendered. In LadybugCapPro, you can output video to this projection by using the [Stream Processing Toolbar](#) and selecting Output Type "Panoramic." Then, using the [Image Processing Toolbar](#), specify Mapping Type "Cylindrical."

The projection equation is as follows:

$$R = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$$

$$\theta = \text{ATAN2}(Y, X)$$

$$\phi = -\frac{ZR}{\sqrt{R^2 - Z^2}}$$

(Θ, Φ) are the coordinates of the projected image.

Θ is computed in the same manner as in the radial projection.

Φ can go to infinity as the 3D point nears the pole, which is why the field of view of the cylindrical projection must be limited. When rendered using LadybugCapPro, only the field of view between -45 degrees and 45 degrees is displayed. Thus this projection is useful when only the images from the side cameras are needed.

(Θ, Φ) can be obtained by referring to the fCylAngle and fCylHeight members of the LadybugPoint3d struct, which is obtained by invoking ladybugGet3dMap().



Example cylindrical projection image

Dome Projection

This is a projection that maps the sphere to a dome-like shape. In LadybugCapPro, select Output Type "Dome." The projection equation is as follows:

$$R = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$$

$$\varphi = \text{ACOS}\left(\frac{Z}{R}\right)$$

$$U = \varphi \frac{X}{R}$$

$$V = \varphi \frac{Y}{R}$$

(U, V) are coordinates of the dome-projected image. With this projection, the north pole of the sphere is drawn in the center and the south pole is drawn as the outer rim of the dome.

You can limit the range of the image to be rendered by calling the function ladybugChangeDomeViewAngle().



Example dome projection image

Cubic (Skybox) Projection

This projection requires 6 images, where each image is the surface of a cube. By dividing the entire sphere into 6 images, the distortion in each image is limited. To reconstruct the panoramic image, the 6 cube-surface images must be displayed using 3D computer graphics. Thus, this mapping is suitable for video game applications. The projection equation is as follows:

$$U = \frac{X}{Z}$$
$$V = \frac{Y}{Z}$$

This projection is equivalent to the view captured by a lens that has no distortion (pin-hole lens). Each surface of the cube can be obtained by rendering the spherical image while setting the appropriate camera rotation and field of view to exactly 90 degrees. This is achievable by calling `ladybugSetSphericalViewParams()`. To use [LadybugCapPro](#), select Output Type "6 Cube map."



Example cubic projection images

Revision History

Revision	Date	Notes
1.0	January 21, 2013	Initial release - support for model LD5-51S5C-44R/B
1.1	January 25, 2013	Updated Stream File Format Clarified mounting instructions
1.2	January 30, 2013	Clarified 16-bit pixel format and 12-bit ADC Minor edits to clarify user interface controls Added information on desiccant plug